CDC

RACKET SQUAD

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

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A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

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IMPORTED SIMILE STONES!

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Extra heavy! 5 Pseudo Diamonds—hard to tell from genuine! Gold plated. Big price reduction! No. 319. Only 1.98.

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Lovely classical engagement ring! 5 brilliant Pseudo Diamonds. Natural gold color band. Perfect beginning for courtship! No. 357 1.98

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Massive, extra heavy men's ring. 3 Dimensional head is fine example of inspired Indian craftmanship! Gold plated. No. 351—only 1.98

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Friendship ring of delicate beauty to be cherished for years! 2 "Hapa" simulated Rubies, Entwined hearts. Gold color band. No. 416—1.98

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A ladies' ring that out-dazzles some expensive ones! Lovely Sterling band, set with 2 large & small pseudo diamonds. No. 411. 1.98

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A real man's ring! 8 extra larger brilliant imitation diamonds on 14 K rolled gold plate heavy band. No. 411. 1.98

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This brilliant pseudo Diamond appears to be on fire! Large circular sparkler on 14 K. rolled gold plate band. No. 396. Only 1.98

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Exquisite Wedding Set. Pseudo & sapphire-cut design Pseudo Diamonds. Either ring 1.98 each. Both for 3.50. No. 304.

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RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION Volume 1, Number 10 October-November, 1954
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EVERY NOW AND THEN SMOOTH-TALKING MEN COMBINE THEIR NATURAL GIFT OF GAB WITH A SURE-SEEMING THING TO FOIST THEIR DECEIT AND CHEATING ARTS ON A GULLIBLE PUBLIC. STOCKTON PARKES WAS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE--BUT HE MADE THE ONE MISTAKE OF EVERY CROOK! READ ON AND FIND YOUR ANSWER, IN THE CASE OF THE --
MALIGNANT MODEL AGENCY!
LET GO! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO STOP ME! LET GO!
I HAVE ALL THE RIGHT IN THE WORLD, PARKES!
PARKES
SCHOOL
EEEEE! THE POLICE!
SHUSTER + OSRIN

THE MODELING BUSINESS IS **BIG BUSINESS** TODAY. MODELING CAN TAKE MANY FORMS--THE CLOTHES' MODEL, THE HANDS, FACE, FIGURE MODEL, THE ART MODEL. BUT THE MODEL MOST OFTEN FAMILIARLY ACQUAINTED WITH IN THE PUBLIC EYE IS THE "CHEESECAKE" MODEL...

MISS CHEESECAKE MODEL IS A PRETTY GIRL WHO LOOKS BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL---AND WHO POSES FOR ADS AND MAGAZINE COVERS ALL OVER THE NATION. SHE IS THE ONE "FACTOR" THAT SELLS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING FOR ANY PRODUCT...

RACKET SQUAD

MISS CHEESECAKE IS ALSO A HIGHLY-PAID GIRL. NOW LET US SEE HOW THE CONFIDENCE GAME AND MODELING TIE IN TOGETHER. ONE SUCH WAY WAS FOUND BY A CERTAIN MR. STOCKTON PARKES--THEN A STARVING, STRUGGLING PHOTOGRAPHER WHO LIVED FROM DAY TO DAY ON HIS SLIPSHOD WORK...
JUST SMILE NOW, MRS. ADAMS. THAT'S IT!
TAKE A GOOD PICTURE, NOW!
OFTEN--HE BOTCHED UP HIS WORK. OTHER TIMES, HIS LIGHTING AND COMPOSITION WERE SO BAD THAT CUSTOMERS REACTED TYPICALLY...
HERE THEY ARE, MRS. ADAMS. I WORKED ON THEM A LONG TIME!
ARE--THESE--ME? GOOD HEAVENS! THEY'RE TERRIBLE!
THEY'RE TERRIBLE--TERRIBLE! YOU'VE MADE ME LOOK LIKE A FAT HORSE!
OWWW! WELL--THAT'S WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!
CRASH!
WELL--I'LL NEVER COME HERE AGAIN! AND I'LL TELL ALL MY FRIENDS!
AW--DROP DEAD!
THIS HAPPENED SO MUCH AND WITH SUCH STARTLING REGULARITY THAT EVEN PARKES' MODEL GIRL FRIEND BEGAN DOUBTING HIS SKILL...
SO WHEN DO YOU GET SOME MONEY TOGETHER, GENIUS? I CAN'T SEE YOU ANYMORE! A GIRL'S GOT TO EAT! I BETTER GET A JOB SOMEWHERE ELSE!
DON'T LEAVE ME NOW, ANNIE. STICK BY ME! I GOT IDEAS!
AND THEN IT BEGAN...
I GOT IT! SURE--IT'S A CINCH! LOOK RIGHT HERE IN THIS MAGAZINE! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE?
HUH?

RACKET SQUAD

IT'S A NATURAL, ANNIE. ALL THESE BOOKS HAVE PICTURES O' PRETTY GIRLS, RIGHT? AND THEY BREAK THEIR BACKS GETTIN' THEIR PICTURES IN BOOKS, RIGHT?
YEAH... YEAH... SO WHAT?

SO I GO INTO THE MODEL AGENCY BUSINESS. I DON'T BREAK MY BACK WITH THE BOOK PUBLISHERS, EITHER. I JUST ADVERTISE THAT MY MODELING COURSE WILL GIVE THEM SUCCESS. GET IT?
YEAH. YOU'RE A GENIUS, HONEY!

SO MR. "GENIUS" PARKES BECAME A MODELING AGENT. HE AND ANN POOLED ALL THEIR MEAGER SAVINGS AND RESOURCES TOGETHER AND MOVED INTO A GOOD-LOOKING OFFICE, WHERE...
PLEASE, LINE UP, GIRLS. MR. PARKES WILL SEE YOU NOW!

HMMM...WELL--SOME OF YOU HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD AT MY COURSE. BUT WE'LL TAKE YOU ON. THE STOCKTON MODELING COURSE IS GUARANTEED TO GET YOU RESULTS!

THE STOCKTON COURSE REQUIRED A SMALL TUITION OF TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS, ALSO. THE GIRLS--- SWAYED BY PROMISES OF FAME AND FORTUNE-- READILY COMPLIED. AND STOCKTON PARKES WAS IN BUSINESS...

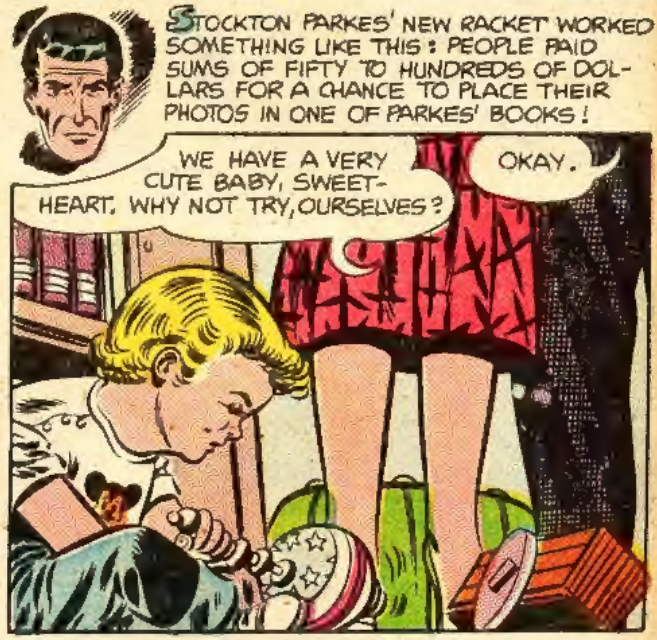
FREAKISH FATE KEPT PARKES AWAY FROM THE POLICE. OCCASIONALLY, A GIRL PRETTY ENOUGH ON HER OWN TO BREAK THE ICE WITH THE MAGAZINE EDITORS AND VARIOUS ADVERTISING PEOPLE, OFTEN RECOMMENDED PARKES AS HER "TEACHER"...

RACKET SQUAD

AND WHEN PARKES GOT HONEST BUSINESS, HE EXPANDED IN CONFIDENCE AND IN PLAIN DOUBLE-DEALING, SOON--MONEY FOUND ITS WAY TO STOCKTON'S POCKET...
AND CALL UP THE KEEFER ACCOUNT FOR TOMORROW! DEPOSIT THESE CHECKS IN THE BANK!
YES, SIR.

EVENTUALLY, STOCKTON PARKES WENT ONE STEP FURTHER...
SEND THIS DIRECTIVE OUT TO THE MAIL-ORDER COMPANIES. QUOTE --- "THE PARKES' MODELING COURSE WILL GIVE YOU PROFITS BEYOND COMPARE!"
LOOK, HONEY. THIS LOOKS GOOD! LET'S READ IT!

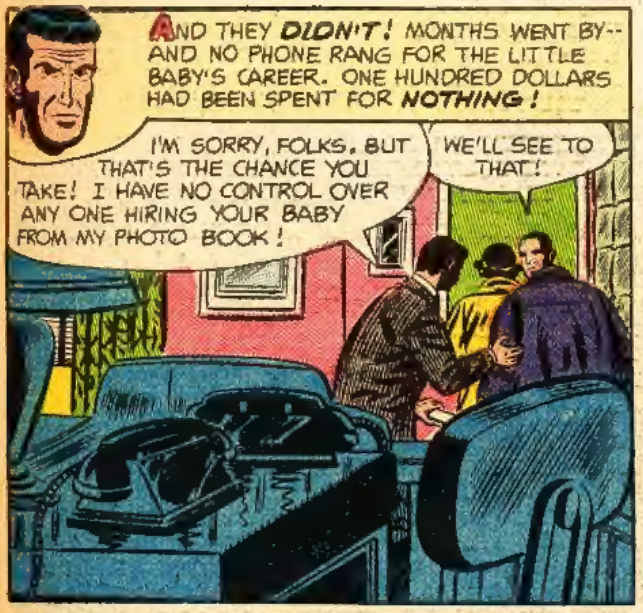
WITH THE PUBLIC NOW BECOMING INTERESTED IN HIS "STEPS TO SUCCESS", PARKES ESTABLISHED A PHOTO-MODEL SERVICE THAT PURPORTED TO HOLD THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL SUCCESSFUL MODELS...
PLACE THESE PHOTO-BOOKS IN THE CORNER. WE'LL MAKE UP ANOTHER BOOK AND STILL ANOTHER ONE IF THE BOOKS GET FILLED!


STOCKTON PARKES' NEW RACKET WORKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS: PEOPLE PAID SUMS OF FIFTY TO HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS FOR A CHANCE TO PLACE THEIR PHOTOS IN ONE OF PARKES' BOOKS!
WE HAVE A VERY CUTE BABY, SWEETHEART. WHY NOT TRY, OURSELVES?
OKAY.

FRANCINE IS PRETTY ENOUGH TO BE A BABY-MODEL. IT SHOULDN'T COST US TOO MUCH!
PARKES' MODEL BOOK IS SEEN BY ALL THE BIG MAGAZINES, TOO!

SO THEY FOOLISHLY WENT TO SEE STOCKTON PARKES...
OF COURSE I'LL ACCEPT THIS SUM FROM YOU. YOUR CHILD'S PHOTO WILL BE PLACED RIGHT IN MY BOOK. YOU MAY GET WORK FROM THIS MOMENT ON!
OH, THANK YOU, MISTER PARKES. WE WON'T FORGET IT!

RACKET SQUAD


AND THEY DIDN'T! MONTHS WENT BY--AND NO PHONE RANG FOR THE LITTLE BABY'S CAREER. ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS HAD BEEN SPENT FOR NOTHING!
I'M SORRY, FOLKS. BUT THAT'S THE CHANCE YOU TAKE! I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER ANY ONE HIRING YOUR BABY FROM MY PHOTO BOOK!
WE'LL SEE TO THAT!

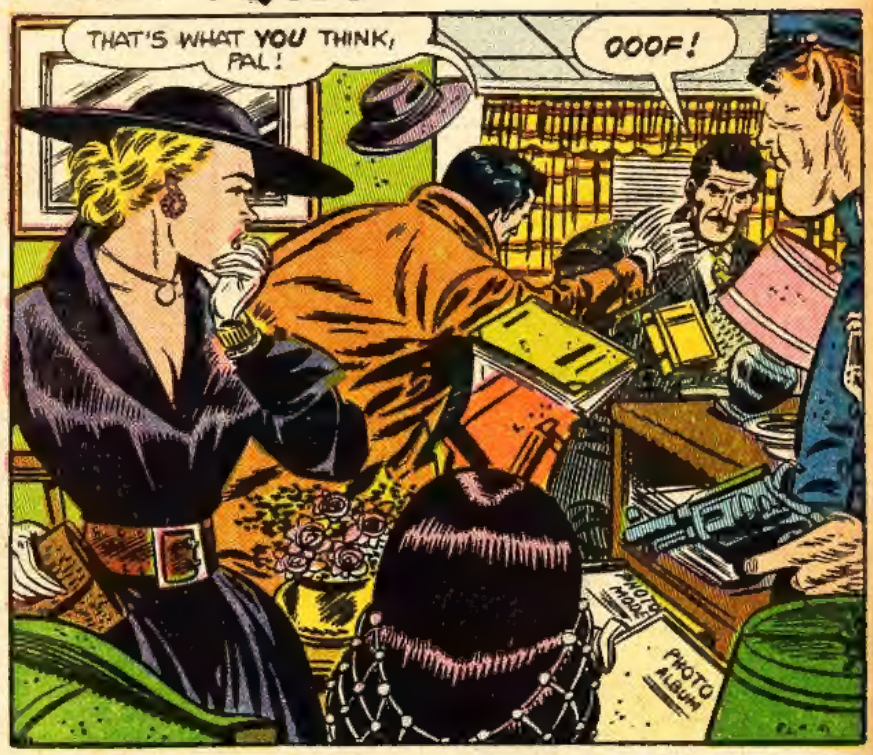
AND FINALLY---THEY CAME TO ME...
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT WITHOUT A CONTRACT YOUR BABY WOULD NEVER GET ANY WORK?
NO.... WE THOUGHT HE WOULD BE SEEN FOR SURE IN THAT BOOK, AND HIRED!
RECORD BOOK

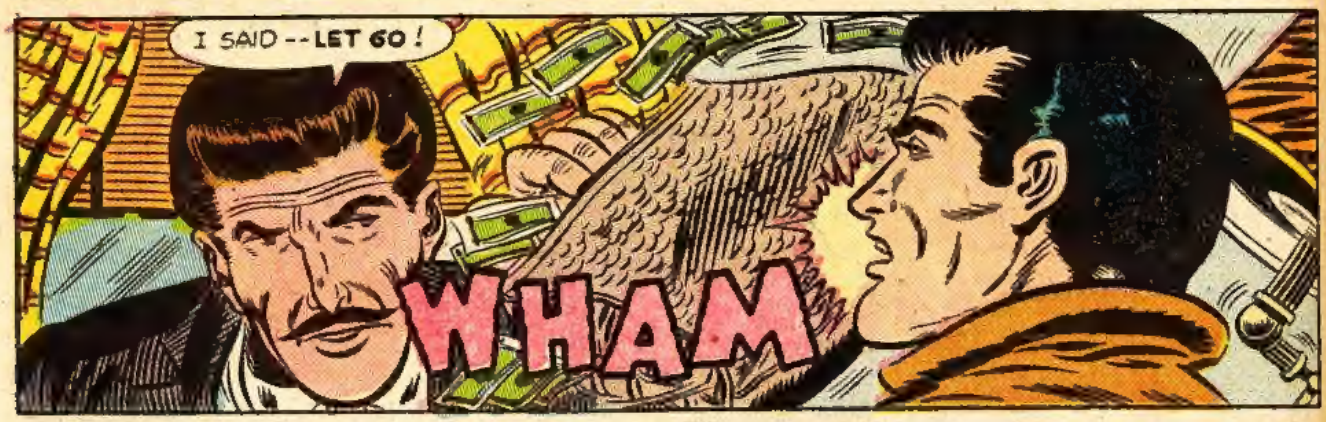
YOU PEOPLE NEVER LEARN, DO YOU? YOU CAN LEAVE NOW. I'LL CONTACT YOU WHEN I HAVE SOMETHING ON MR. PARKES. TOM--GET ME THE FILES ON HIM!
RIGHT, CHIEF!

MEANWHILE, ANN, STOCKTON PARKES' EAGER SECRETARY AND EX-MODEL, HAD BEEN BITTEN BY THE GREED BUG, HERSELF...
LOOK WHAT I GOT! I RAN AN AD PROMISING THE SUCKERS WORK IF THEY ENROLLED WITH US! LOOK AT ALL THESE BILLS!
WHAAA--T?

DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HOPE TO GET JOBS FOR THEM? WE HAD A SETUP THAT WAS PERFECT. WE PROMISED THEM ONLY SUCCESS---NOT JOBS! NOW YOU'VE GONE AHEAD AND COMMITTED FRAUD!
GEE!

RACKET SQUAD





STOCKTON PARKES WAS TAKEN TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THEN SERVED WITH A SUBPOENA. AT COURT, HE WAS RELEASED UNDER BAIL TO PREPARE FOR SUBSEQUENT DEFENSE...

CARE TO MAKE A STATEMENT, MR. PARKES?
MY NAME STANDS FOR HONESTY AND FAME! IT'S A DISGRACE WHEN THE AUTHORITIES CAN CRACK DOWN ON A TAXPAYER. I'LL FIGHT THIS TO THE LAST!

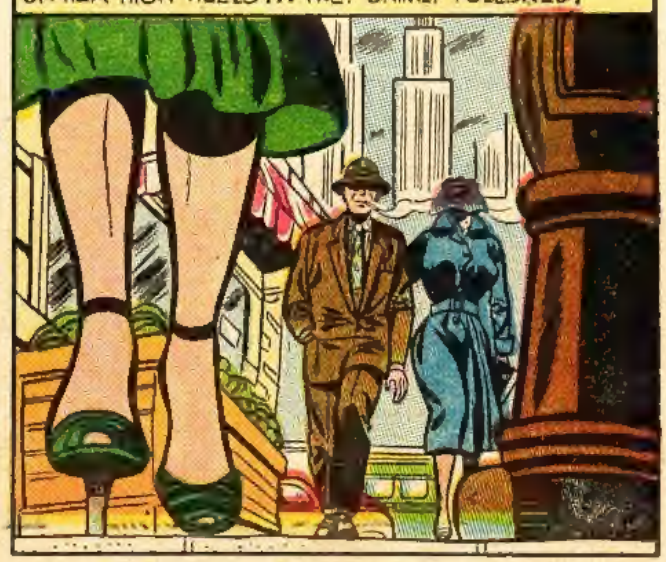
STOCKTON PARKES IS NOT IMPORTANT FROM THIS POINT ON. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE STAMPED HIM **OUT-OF-BUSINESS.** BUT DOZENS OF STOCKTON PARKES' STILL OPERATE TODAY--ON **YOU**--THE PUBLIC. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THEM--CHECK, THINK OVER THEIR OFFERS THREE TIMES BEFORE DECIDING--AND REMEMBER THAT RACKETS ARE BORN BECAUSE **YOU DON'T** THINK!

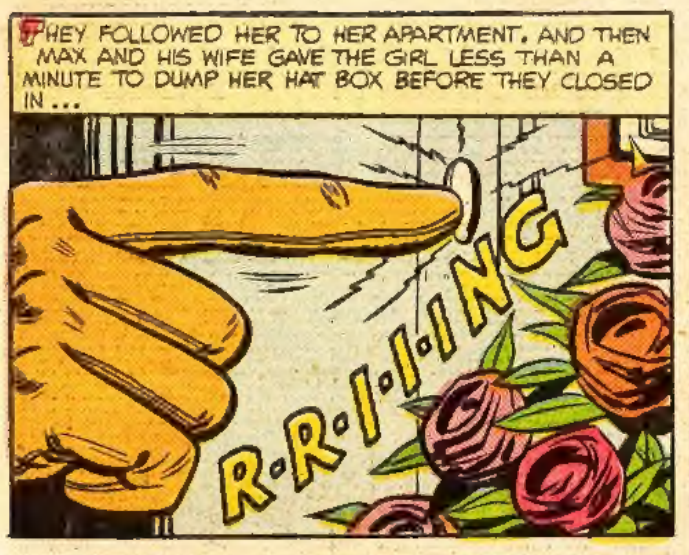
IT TOOK THE TWISTED BRAINS AND COLD HEARTS OF MAX HOLMAN AND HIS WIFE TO DREAM UP THE CRUELEST RACKET OF THEM ALL!

YOUR MONEY or YOUR FACE!

MAX HOLMAN SPOTTED HER AS A MODEL RIGHT OFF-- HER LONG LEGS; THE BONY STRUCTURE OF HER FACE, THE HAT BOX DANGLING FROM HER HAND, WERE ALL DEAD-GIVE-AWAYS. MAX NODDED TO HIS WIFE ...

AS THE PRETTY GIRL PRANCED DOWN THE STREET ON HER HIGH HEELS ... THEY GRIMLY FOLLOWED.




THEY FOLLOWED HER TO HER APARTMENT. AND THEN MAX AND HIS WIFE GAVE THE GIRL LESS THAN A MINUTE TO DUMP HER HAT BOX BEFORE THEY CLOSED IN ...
R-R-I-I-I-NG

WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SHUT UP! ARE YOU ALONE..? GOOD!

SEE THIS BOTTLE, BABY? IT'S FULL OF ACID! YOU KNOW WHAT THIS ACID COULD DO TO THAT PRETTY FACE OF YOURS---DON'T YOU, BABY? WELL, THIS ACID SAYS YOU'RE GOING TO CUT ME IN FOR FIFTY PERCENT OF YOUR MODEL FEES! OR ELSE!!

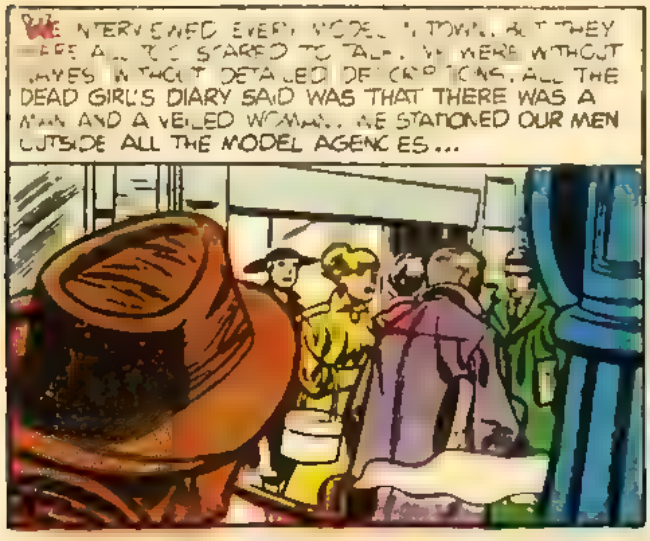
M-MY FACE! Y-YOU WOULDN'T! NO..(SOB) NO!!
WOULDN'T I ...? I'LL SHOW YOU! SEE THIS GIRL WITH ME? SHE WAS A MODEL ONCE--- JUST LIKE YOU! I MADE HER THE SAME PROPOSITION. SHE THOUGHT SHE'D BE SMART. SHE TRIED TO CONTACT THE COPS... SHOW THIS BABY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU GOT THAT BRIGHT IDEA, DORA!

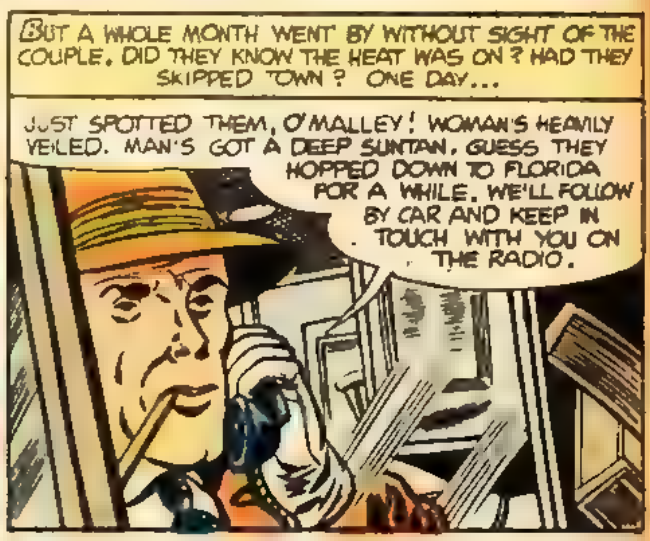
AIEEE!!
DORA CAN'T GET MODELLING JOBS NO MORE--SO SHE WORKS FOR ME. SHE'S SORT OF A WALKING SAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE OF YOU GIRLS TRIES TO HOLD OUT...!

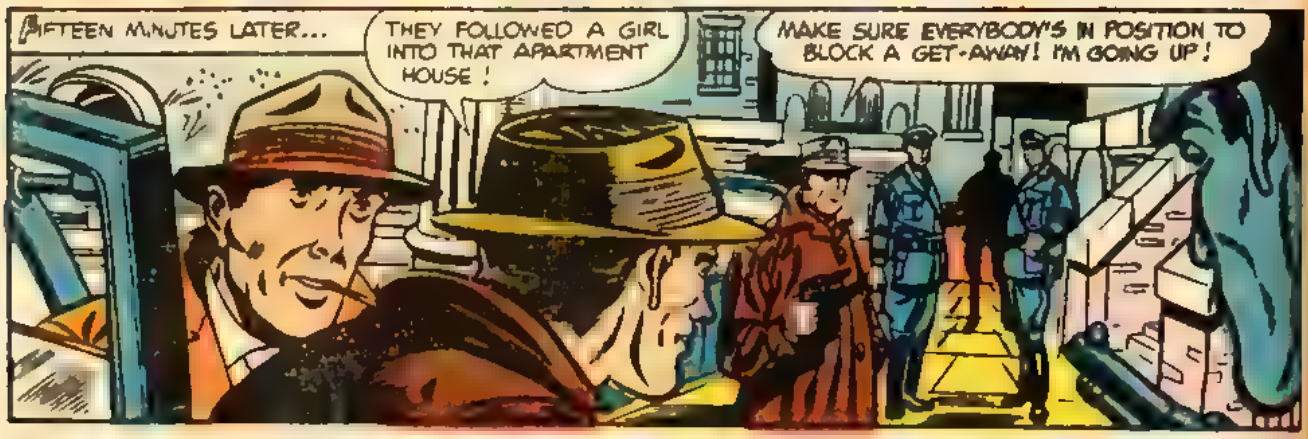
RACKET SQUAD

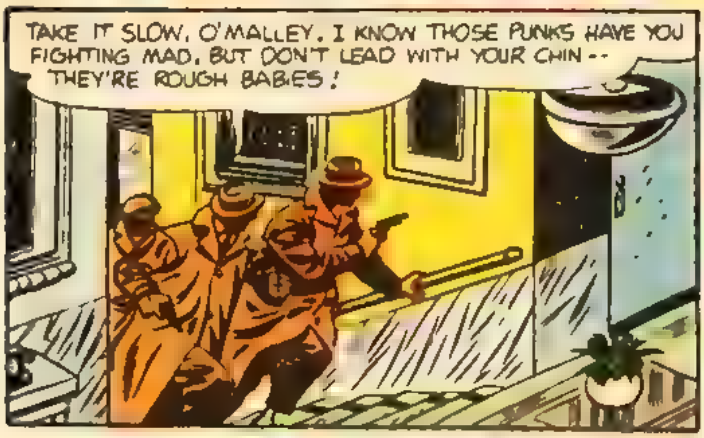
LATER --
WHAT'TA RACKET! THAT'S THE THIRD GIRL WE'VE LINED-UP THIS WEEK!
LET'S GET HOME, MAX,--- ALL THIS MAKE-UP ON MY FACE WEIGHS A TON!
I GET A BIG KICK OUTTA SEEING THOSE BABES GO TO PIECES WHEN THEY GET A LOOK AT THOSE PHONY SCARS OF YOURS.
THAT ACID AIN'T PHONY, MAX-- BE CAREFUL WITH IT!
THE ROUTINE WORKED EVERY TIME. MODEL AFTER MODEL CRUMPLED WITH FEAR AT THE SIGHT OF WHAT THEY THOUGHT THE ACID HAD DONE TO DORA'S FACE! THEY KEPT PAYING OFF...AND FEAR SEALED THEIR LIPS!
BUT ONE OF THE MODELS KEPT HAVING NIGHTMARES ABOUT THE HOT ACID BURNING INTO HER FLESH. THE NIGHTMARES GOT SO BAD, SHE COULDN'T TAKE THEM ANY MORE. THE POOR KID TURNED ALL THE GAS JETS ON...
...AND THE DEAD GIRL'S DIARY GOT INTO THE HANDS OF THE RACKET SQUAD!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW C'MALLEY?
WE PUT EVERY MAN IN THE SQUAD ON THIS CASE TILL IT'S BROKEN --THAT'S WHAT WE DO.
DIARY

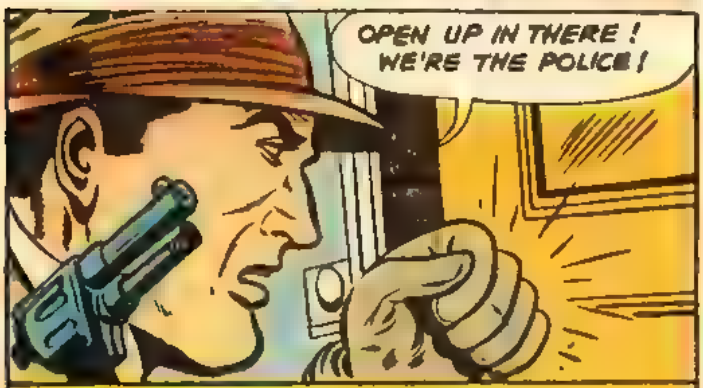
RACKET SQUAD


WE INTERVIEWED EVERY MODEL IN TOWN, BUT THEY WERE ALL TOO SCARED TO TALK. WE WERE WITHOUT LEADS IN THE CASE EXCEPT FOR VAGUE DESCRIPTIONS. ALL THE DEAD GIRL'S DIARY SAID WAS THAT THERE WAS A MAN AND A VEILED WOMAN. WE STATIONED OUR MEN OUTSIDE ALL THE MODEL AGENCIES...


BUT A WHOLE MONTH WENT BY WITHOUT SIGHT OF THE COUPLE. DID THEY KNOW THE HEAT WAS ON? HAD THEY SKIPPED TOWN? ONE DAY...
JUST SPOTTED THEM, O'MALLEY! WOMAN'S HEAVILY VEILED. MAN'S GOT A DEEP SUNTAN. GUESS THEY HOPPED DOWN TO FLORIDA FOR A WHILE. WE'LL FOLLOW BY CAR AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU ON THE RADIO.


FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...
THEY FOLLOWED A GIRL INTO THAT APARTMENT HOUSE!
MAKE SURE EVERYBODY'S IN POSITION TO BLOCK A GET-AWAY! I'M GOING UP!





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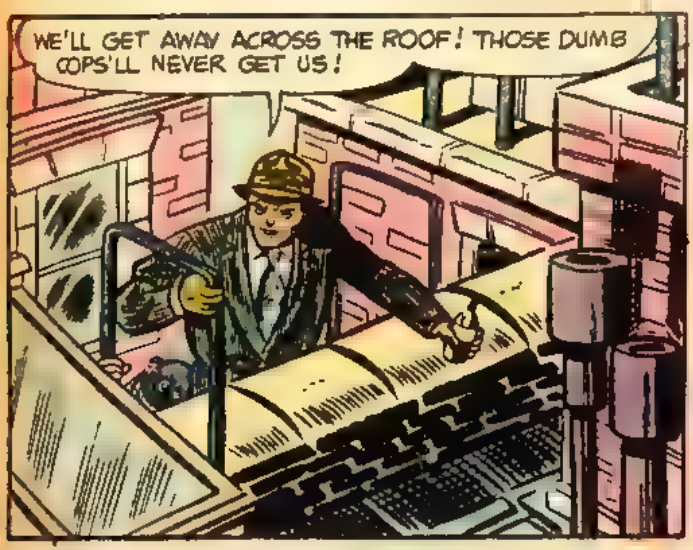
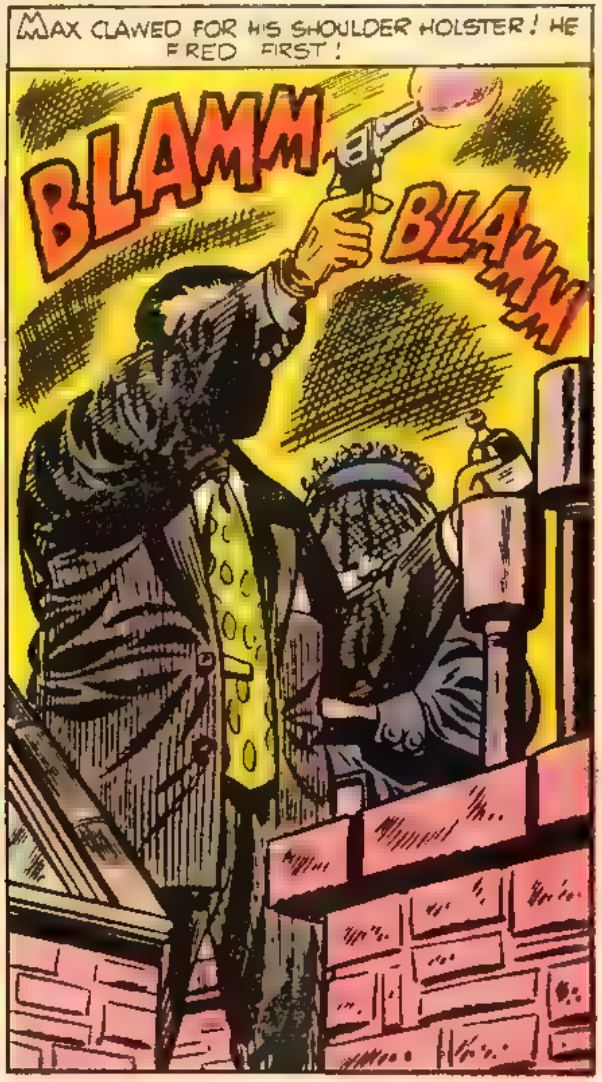
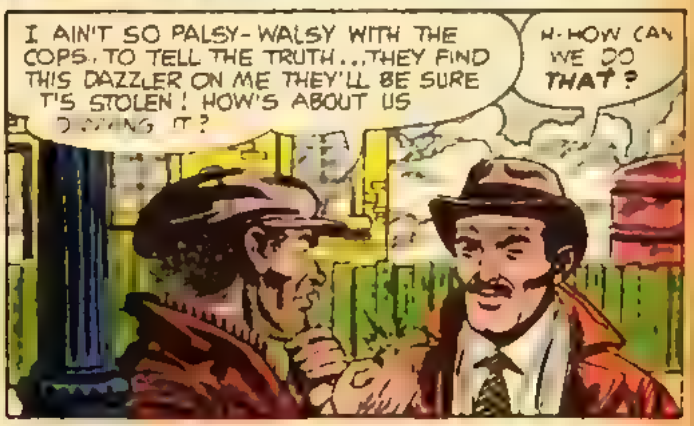


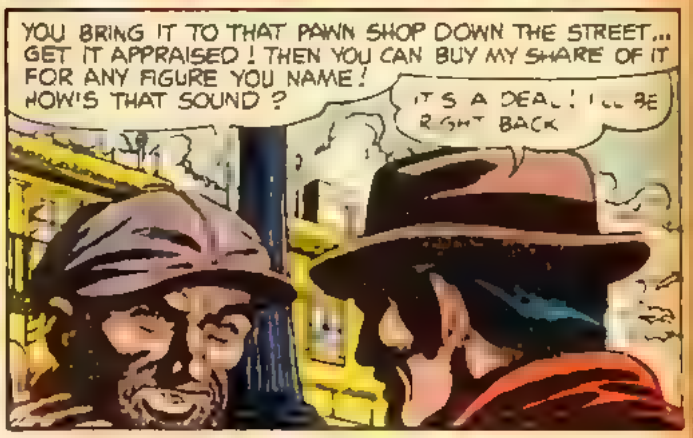


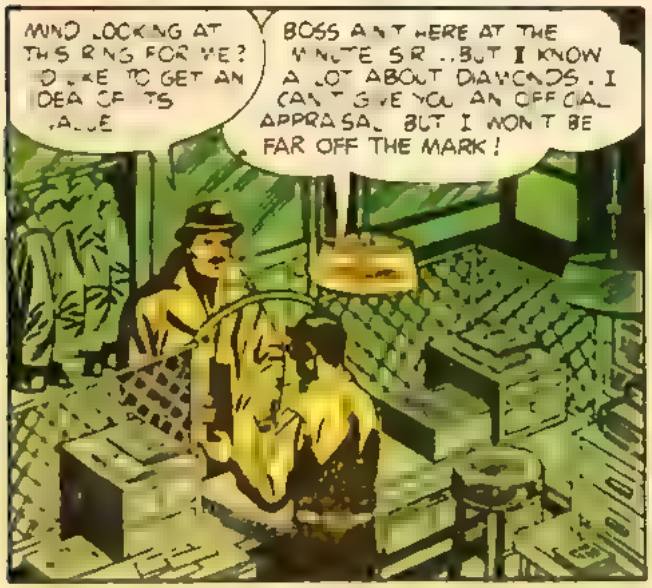
IT JUST HAPPENED THAT WAY---NOBODY MEANT IT TO. BUT THE FLYING ACID SHOWED IT COULD SCAR FACES JUST THE WAY MAX HOLMAN AND HIS WIFE ALWAYS SAID IT COULD! THAT ACID SCARRED THEM SO BADLY...
THAT NOT ONCE DURING THEIR TRIAL DID EITHER ONE OF THEM PULL HIS HANDS AWAY FROM HIS FACE!
THE END

SEE THAT YOU DON'T GET BURNT BY FALLING FOR . . .
HOT ICE!
T-THAT RING . . . LOOKS LIKE A REAL DIAMOND. SOMEONE MUST'VE DROPPED IT . . .

H-HEY! I . . . I SAW IT FIRST . .
TOUGH LUCK JUNIOR . . FINDERS KEEPERS! HMMM . . . THIS ROCK OUGHTA FETCH A CARLOAD OF DOUGH!


I AIN'T SO PALSY-WALSY WITH THE COPS. TO TELL THE TRUTH . . . THEY FIND THIS DAZZLER ON ME THEY'LL BE SURE IT'S STOLEN! HOW'S ABOUT US DIVVING IT?
H-HOW CAN WE DO THAT?


YOU BRING IT TO THAT PAWN SHOP DOWN THE STREET . . . GET IT APPRAISED! THEN YOU CAN BUY MY SHARE OF IT FOR ANY FIGURE YOU NAME! HOW'S THAT SOUND?
IT'S A DEAL! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK


MIND LOOKING AT THIS RING FOR ME? I'D LIKE TO GET AN IDEA OF ITS VALUE
BOSS AIN'T HERE AT THE MINUTE SIR . . BUT I KNOW A LOT ABOUT DIAMONDS. I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN OFFICIAL APPRAISAL BUT I WON'T BE FAR OFF THE MARK!

THAT'S A FLAWLESS STONE YOU GOT THERE MISTER . . . SHOULDN'T BE ANY TROUBLE GETTING TWO-THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR IT FROM MY BOSS!
T-TWO . THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS? I . . UH . . . THANK YOU . . I'LL BE BACK

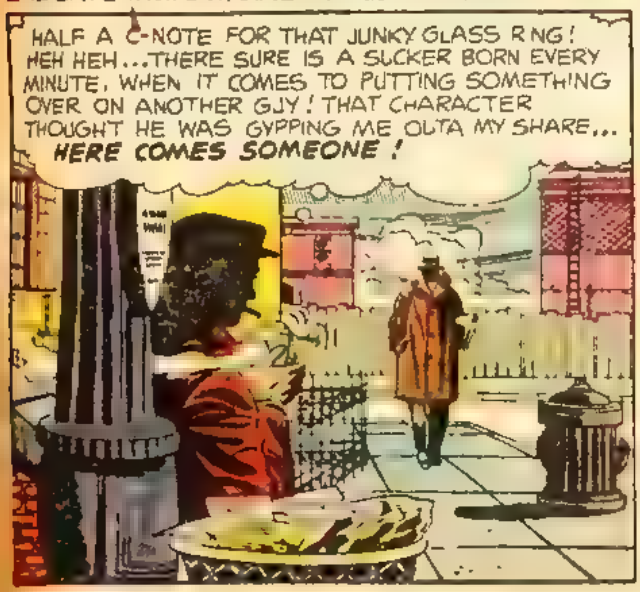
RACKET SQUAD

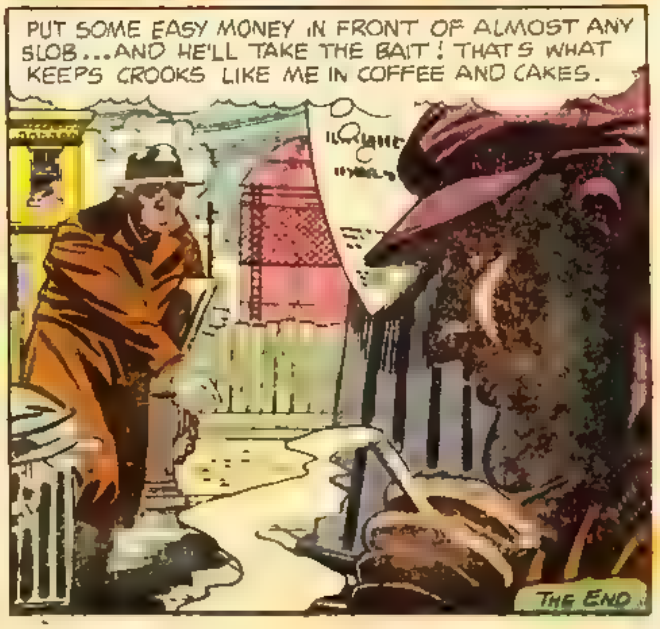
MOMENT LATER...
HE SAID IT WAS WORTH A C-NOTE, EH? I'DA GUESSED MORE, BUT WITH MY POLICE RECORD I AIN'T IN NO POSITION TO ARGUE! GIMME FIFTY BUCKS AND THE ROCK'S YOURS...
FIFTY DOLLARS... AND NOW THE DIAMOND RING'S MINE!

THE TWO MEN PART, AND THE OWNER OF THE RING RUSHES BACK TO THE PAWN SHOP...
HERE'S THE DIAMOND RING... I'LL SELL IT FOR THE PRICE YOUR ASSISTANT...
MY ASSISTANT? YOU MEAN THE KID WHO WAS MINDING THE STORE WHILE I WAS OUT? HE DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT DIAMONDS!

...AND THE RING BELONGED TO YOUR MOTHER, YOU SAY? I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, MISTER... IT SURE ISN'T STOLEN!
NEVER MIND THE CHATTER... HOW MUCH'LL YOU GIVE ME FOR IT? I'VE GOT TO HURRY...
CAMERA

...CAUSE ANY CHARACTER WHO GOES IN FOR LIFTING HOT ICE KNOWS A DIAMOND WHEN HE SEES ONE! ALL THIS RING IS... IS GLASS! I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU FIFTY CENTS FOR IT!
OH... NO!


THE SAME MOMENT, SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY...
HALF A C-NOTE FOR THAT JUNKY GLASS RING! HEH HEH... THERE SURE IS A SUCKER BORN EVERY MINUTE, WHEN IT COMES TO PUTTING SOMETHING OVER ON ANOTHER GUY! THAT CHARACTER THOUGHT HE WAS GYPPING ME OUTA MY SHARE... HERE COMES SOMEONE!


PUT SOME EASY MONEY IN FRONT OF ALMOST ANY SLOB... AND HE'LL TAKE THE BAIT! THAT'S WHAT KEEPS CROOKS LIKE ME IN COFFEE AND CAKES.
THE END

TICKETS TO TRAGEDY

Dr. Edwin Armstrong had done his best to save the patient. At two in the morning he had performed an emergency operation upon Thomas Cutting at Mercy Hospital. The physician was sad as he realized that, within a few minutes, the man would be dead.

"He is unconscious and won't be able to hear a single word you tell him. However, legally I have no right to prevent you from trying to speak to him. So, go right into the room and do your duty."

Those words were spoken to Detective Albert Girvin of the thirty-fourth precinct. The officer went into the room and sat down. The nurse moved to the side.

"Mr. Cutting, do your best to listen to what I have to say. Somebody tried to kill you. Who was it? What do you know about the racket?" asked the law officer.

The nurse went over to her patient, and then quickly left the room. She returned with Dr. Armstrong, who checked upon the condition of Thomas Cutting.

"He's dead," was the simple announcement. "I hope you get your killer."

"As far as the newspapers are concerned," replied the police officer, "this is going in as just an accident. He was driving his car along route 32. Then he went uphill to Walter's Peak. His car crashed through the guard rail and fell more than six-hundred feet. By all the rules of the game he should have been a corpse. I am convinced the car was run off the road first. Then his body was taken down by the killer and dumped near the car. As soon as his wife gets over the shock, I shall question her again."

Martha Cutting no longer had any tears to shed for the man she loved. Now she would have to face the world without his help and raise their three small children. She turned to Detective Albert Girvin.

"Thomas came home excited last week. Told me he thought he had stumbled upon something new in a racket at the booths. For the past five years my husband has been employed as a collector of tolls at the southern end of the Inter-State Bridge. I asked him what it was all about. Said he wanted to be certain before he made any charges. If what you say is true, then my husband was killed. But why?"

The detective didn't answer at once. He wanted to think clearly. Yet, he knew that at the given moment he was without a single clue as to what the racket was or who the killer was.

"I will assume, at present, that either the killer discovered your husband was wise to the racket, or he confronted the man with some kind of evidence. But rest assured of this one thing; I shall not rest until the entire affair has been exposed and the killer gets what is coming to him. You will excuse me, but I am going to pick up my partner and we'll start out at once upon this case."

Detective David Jordon was generally teamed with Detective Albert Girvin on cases that required two or more law officers. Just now he was driving a squad car along the Inter-State Bridge. When they came out at the northern exit, they headed for the Administration building. They parked their car and went inside to speak to Major Mack Young, head of the Inter-State Commission, which was in charge of the operation of the famous bridge. The Major was a puzzled man.

"Every mechanical device known is employed here so that it would be impossible for any collector to steal. An electric contactor counts every car as it goes over a rail. The fee for every passenger car is twenty-five cents. As this amount is rung up on the register it is also indicated on a counter. Then the counter is checked against the electric contactor. The two end booths are only for trucks. Here we use tickets, and these are sold ahead of time to large trucking companies. If a trucker wishes

a receipt for the money he gives it to the toll man; then it is written out for him. Here we even have a third check upon the money; for the serial numbers of the tickets sold will tell us how many each toll collector handled. So, gentlemen, if there was a racket, just what was it?"

It was Detective David Jordan who asked the simple question that was to ultimately lead to the solution of the case.

"In just which booth did the late Thomas Cutting work?"

"Since I visit the men personally, I don't need any record sheets to answer that," replied Major Mack Young. "He worked in the last booth of the passenger cars, which fronted that of the first truck booth."

"Which means," broke in Detective Albert Girvin, "that if he were able to observe any other collector, it would have to be one who collects tickets from a trucker. Can you place me as a collector in one of those booths? If there is a racket, then I should be able to find it."

For the next two weeks Detective Albert Girvin wore the uniform of a toll collector. One day, as he was taking a quick bite at a diner, one of the other collectors came over to him.

"My name is Leo Kopekin. You are always in a hurry to leave, yet you look like a sociable guy. Anything wrong?"

Detective Albert Girvin laughed, and that put the other man at his ease.

"My fault, and I hope you forgive me for being a dope. You see, I am entitled under the G.I. Bill to get money for schooling, so I thought I would take some courses. Well, I tried it for two weeks and should have the hole in my head fixed. No time for dames or cards. I gave it up. So, I won't ever get a college diploma — but I'll have some fun."

For the next three weeks Leo Kopekin went out with Detective Albert Girvin. Then one night he introduced him to some friends, and they played cards. At eleven at night, Detective Albert Girvin made a sad announcement.

"I'm broke, fellows. In fact, you got my pay for the next week. I don't know what I'll do."

Leo Kopekin opened his wallet and handed the detective ten twenty-dollar bills.

"From a buddy to a buddy. Pay me when you can. If you can't, then just forget it."

Detective Albert Girvin took the money and continued playing. He lost every cent. And he didn't doubt for a minute that they were using marked cards. They wanted him to lose money and be in debt. To play his part correctly, he had taken a room in a cheap lodging house. Never once did he contact police headquarters nor speak to his side-kick. But he was continually trailed by three plainclothesmen, just in case something happened. And then, after four days, Leo Kopekin came up to him.

"I need that money in a hurry. My mother has a chance to buy the lot next to her house."

Detective Albert Girvin explained he was broke. Then Leo Kopekin made him a proposition.

"If you want to join me in a neat little racket, you can make yourself a hundred bucks extra in a week — just do like I do."

The answer was in the affirmative, and Leo Kopekin did some further explaining.

"You will be given toll tickets. When a trucker wants one, you palm it from your hand and don't take it from the machine. Drop the money into your vest. You keep thirty per-cent and give me the rest. I'll turn it over to the boys."

For the next week Detective Albert Girvin participated in this racket. He wrote a letter to his side-kick, and soon they were trailing Leo Kopekin. What Leo Kopekin didn't know was that in Detective Albert Girvin's pocket was one of the new miniature tape recorders using transistors and small batteries. Every word he said was recorded. When the police closed in, they arrested Leo Kopekin and three other men.

"It was something different in a racket," explained the detective to Major Mack Young. "The three men robbed cash boxes of local trucking firms. They took petty cash and the toll tickets. These they sold to Leo Kopekin, and he alone palmed them off to innocent drivers. From his confession he said that Thomas Cutting observed him one day with tickets under his thumb, then accused him the next day of working a racket. Leo Kopekin beat Thomas Cutting on the head with a hammer, then took him in Thomas' car, and— you know the rest. He let the car go over, then threw the body down. He wanted the body to be identified and figured it would have to look like an accident."

"But how did you figure it was murder?" demanded the Major.

"Simple," replied the detective. "When we examined the car we found the two doors locked. Hence, the driver couldn't have been in the car. The car must have been pushed over and then the body thrown after."

The End

BUSINESS ... LIKE ANYTHING ELSE ... HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS. BUSINESS CAN ALSO BE ... CHEERFUL OPTIMISTIC ... OR UNPREDICTABLE AND UNRELIABLE. AND ONE OF THE MOST UNRELIABLE BUSINESSES IS THE CON GAME ABOUT BUSINESS ... A GAME I CALL IN THIS STORY ...
THE CASE OF THE CRUMMY CORPORATION!
... NEVER GIVE TO SEE THE COPS GET THEIR MITTS ON US!
SMACK
CAREFUL, HANS. YOU'LL GET HIS NICE SMOOTH FACE ALL MUSSED UP! HA, HA ...
A Marble

... WAS NO EXCEPTION.

BY ALL MEANS I WOULDN'T WANT TO

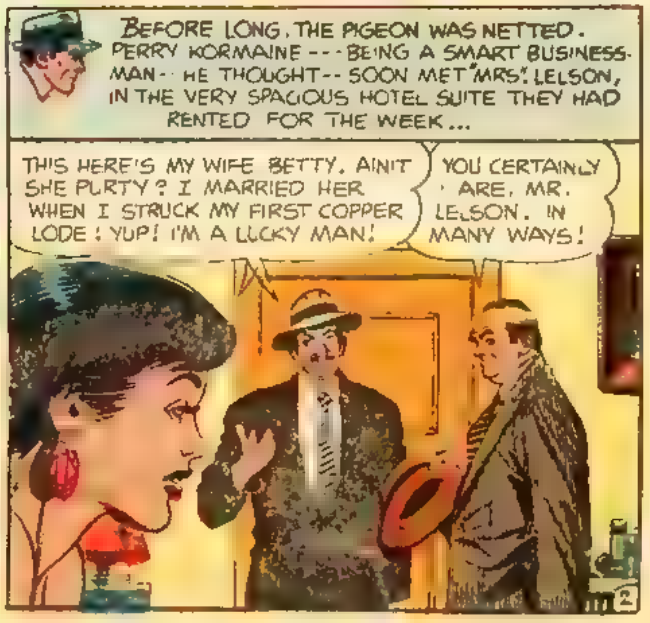
RACKET SQUAD

AFTER HOURS PERRY KORMAINE, A BACHELOR, USUALLY FREQUENTED A CLUB HE HAD BEEN GOING TO THROUGH THE YEARS. UNKNOWN TO HIM, SHREWD CONFIDENCE MEN HAD MADE HIM THE PATSY...
SO THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED THAT I WENT ON THIS AFRICAN HUNT! HA.HA... SOME FUN!

IT'S ENTIRELY MY FAULT, SIR. PLEASE. LET ME REMEDY THIS RIGHT AWAY! I'LL BUY YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS A BOTTLE OF WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING! OR PERHAPS IF YOU CARE TO NAME A SUM?
NO,NO! THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT..IT WON'T STAIN. IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!

BUT AN ACCIDENT WAS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT... FOR PERRY KORMAINE SOON GOT TO LIKE THE NEWCOMER THAT HAD JOINED THEIR TABLE SO ABRUPTLY...
MY NAME IS HENRY LELSON. I'M FROM ALASKA, MYSELF. EVER HEAR OF THE LELSON COPPER MINES? I OWN 'EM!
CAN'T SAY AS I HAVE MR. LELSON! IT SOUNDS INTERESTING!

WELL--I SUPPOSE SO. BUT GIVE ME THE BIG CITIES. HERE A MAN CAN HAVE FUN! JUST REAPING IN PROFITS FROM BIG INVESTMENTS IS GRAND OF COURSE - BUT A MAN LIKES TO RELAX ONCE IN A WHILE!
EXACTLY! HERE, MR. LELSON... HAVE A CIGAR


BEFORE LONG, THE PIGEON WAS NETTED. PERRY KORMAINE---BEING A SMART BUSINESSMAN--HE THOUGHT--SOON MET "MRS." LELSON, IN THE VERY SPACIOUS HOTEL SUITE THEY HAD RENTED FOR THE WEEK...
THIS HERE'S MY WIFE BETTY. AIN'T SHE PURTY? I MARRIED HER WHEN I STRUCK MY FIRST COPPER LODE! YUP! I'M A LUCKY MAN!
YOU CERTAINLY ARE, MR. LELSON. IN MANY WAYS!

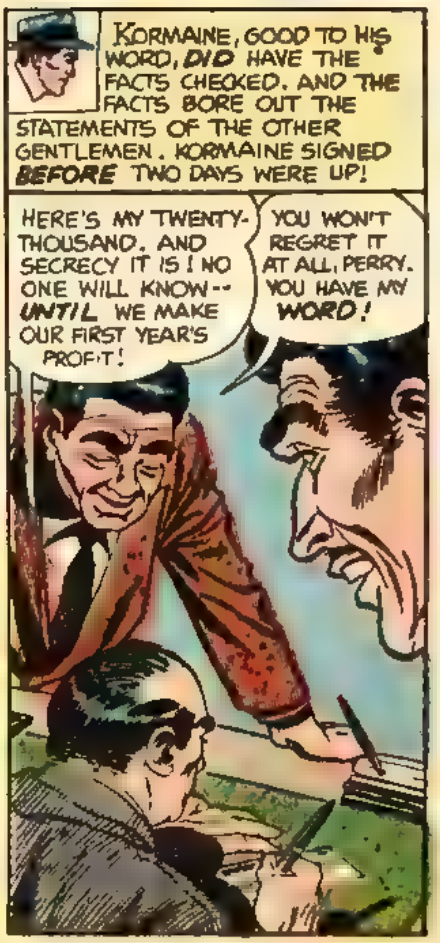
RACKET SQUAD

BEFORE LONG, THE PIGEON WAS MORE THAN NETTED. HE WAS HOOKED BIG! THE CURVACEOUS "MRS." LELSON WORKED HER CHARMS ON HIM!
SO THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, MR. KORMAINE. I GOT TIRED OF ALASKA AND ALL THAT COLD. SO NOW DADDY IS GOING TO START A NEW BUSINESS HERE.
YUP! AND I'M ONTO SOMETHING BIG--REAL BIG! NEW URANIUM LAND--UNTOUCHED!

SAY---THAT SOUNDS ADVENTUROUS! BUT I HEARD THAT YOU HAD TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT WORTHLESS SPECULATION! ESPECIALLY IN URANIUM!
YOU HEARD RIGHT, TOO, PERRY, BUT MY OWN ENGINEERS REPORTED A KILLING SOME TWO WEEKS AGO. LOOK--IF YOU WANT IN, LET'S GO SEE MY LAWYER. HE HAS ALL THE FACTS AND FIGURES!

SO OFF TO LELSON'S LAWYER THEY WENT. THE OFFICE WAS ROOMY, SPACIOUS AND VERY RITZY. OUTSIDE, TWO SECRETARIES TOOK PHONE CALLS AND OTHER CASES. INSIDE, PERRY KORMAINE SAW ATTORNEY THOMAS WAYDE...
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING OVER TWENTY YEARS, MR. KORMAINE. HERE IS ALL THE DATA ON LELSON'S STRIKE. IT'S STUPENDOUS!
YOU DON'T SAY!

HMMM...SAY! THIS IS IMPRESSIVE! MIND IF I HAVE THESE FACTS CHECKED BY MY OWN ATTORNEY?
GO RIGHT AHEAD, MR. KORMAINE! BUT SECRECY---THE UTMOST SECRECY! WE'LL GIVE YOU TWO DAYS TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND!


KORMAINE, GOOD TO HIS WORD, DID HAVE THE FACTS CHECKED. AND THE FACTS BORE OUT THE STATEMENTS OF THE OTHER GENTLEMEN. KORMAINE SIGNED BEFORE TWO DAYS WERE UP!
HERE'S MY TWENTY-THOUSAND. AND SECRECY IT IS! NO ONE WILL KNOW--UNTIL WE MAKE OUR FIRST YEAR'S PROFIT!
YOU WON'T REGRET IT AT ALL, PERRY. YOU HAVE MY WORD!

BUT THIS IS WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED. THE URANIUM STRIKE WAS TRUE, ALL RIGHT--EXCEPT THAT IT DIDN'T BELONG TO LELSON. IT BELONGED TO THE US GOVERNMENT. WHAT LELSON HAD SHOWED KORMAINE WERE PRELIMINARY FIELD REPORTS NO ONE COULD DOUBT. KORMAINE FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY---
BUT YOU DIDN'T TELL ME IT WAS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY! YOU SAID IT WAS YOURS!
I SAID I HAD A STRIKE! I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS MINE! WE SPECULATED ON THE STOCK--AND WE LOST! I'M SORRY!
RITZ
HOTEL RITZ

RACKET SQUAD

TWO HOURS AFTER ADMITTING THIS TO PERRY [illegible] CON ARTISTS HAD ALREADY PACKED...

HA HA. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE!

WELL---DON'T BE SO COCKY! THE CAR'S WAITING DOWNSTAIRS!

ALL THAT LOOT FOR THE PHONY OFFICE AND OTHER HELP WAS WORTH IT! I ALMOST FEEL GLAD THAT THE BAR ASSOCIATION DISBARRED ME! NOW I'VE MADE MORE!

EXAMINATION, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, REPORTS ON THIS SUCH TRIO WERE COMING IN FROM ALMOST EVERY STATE IN THE UNION. I IMMEDIATELY HAD THE FILE CHECK ALERTED...

JIM--GET THIS ON THE MUG REPORT AND SEE IF ANY OF THE OTHER STATE AGENCIES HAVE PHOTOS OF THESE PEOPLE!

RIGHT CAPTAIN

EVERYTHING I'VE TOLD YOU SO FAR HAPPENED IN ANOTHER CITY. NOW THE TRIO RESUMED OPERATIONS AGAIN - RIGHT HERE IN THE BIG CITY. AND IT WAS AT THIS POINT, THAT WE CAME INTO THE PICTURE!

I'M TELLING YOU, MR. PEARSON, THESE TITANIUM FINDINGS OF MINE ARE IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCES!

OH, YES! I WON'T TELL A SOUL!

BUT PEARSON HAD BEEN AROUND TOO LONG NOT TO SPOT A PHONY. HE CAME STRAIGHT OVER TO MY OFFICE TO SEE ME...

YOU DID RIGHT AND THEY ANSWER THE DESCRIPTION TO A "T"! DO EXACTLY WHAT THEY TELL YOU. PLAY YOUR PART AS IF YOU DON'T SUSPECT THEM! WE'LL DO THE REST!

SO PEARSON PLAYED ALONG, AND, ONE WEEK LATER HANDED THEM THE MONEY HE WAS SUPPOSED TO INVEST IN LELSON'S TITANIUM MINE!

EXCELLENT. YOU'RE A MAN WITH VISION! SHALL WE MAKE A TOAST ON OUR BARGAIN?

NO. THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. GOOODAY!

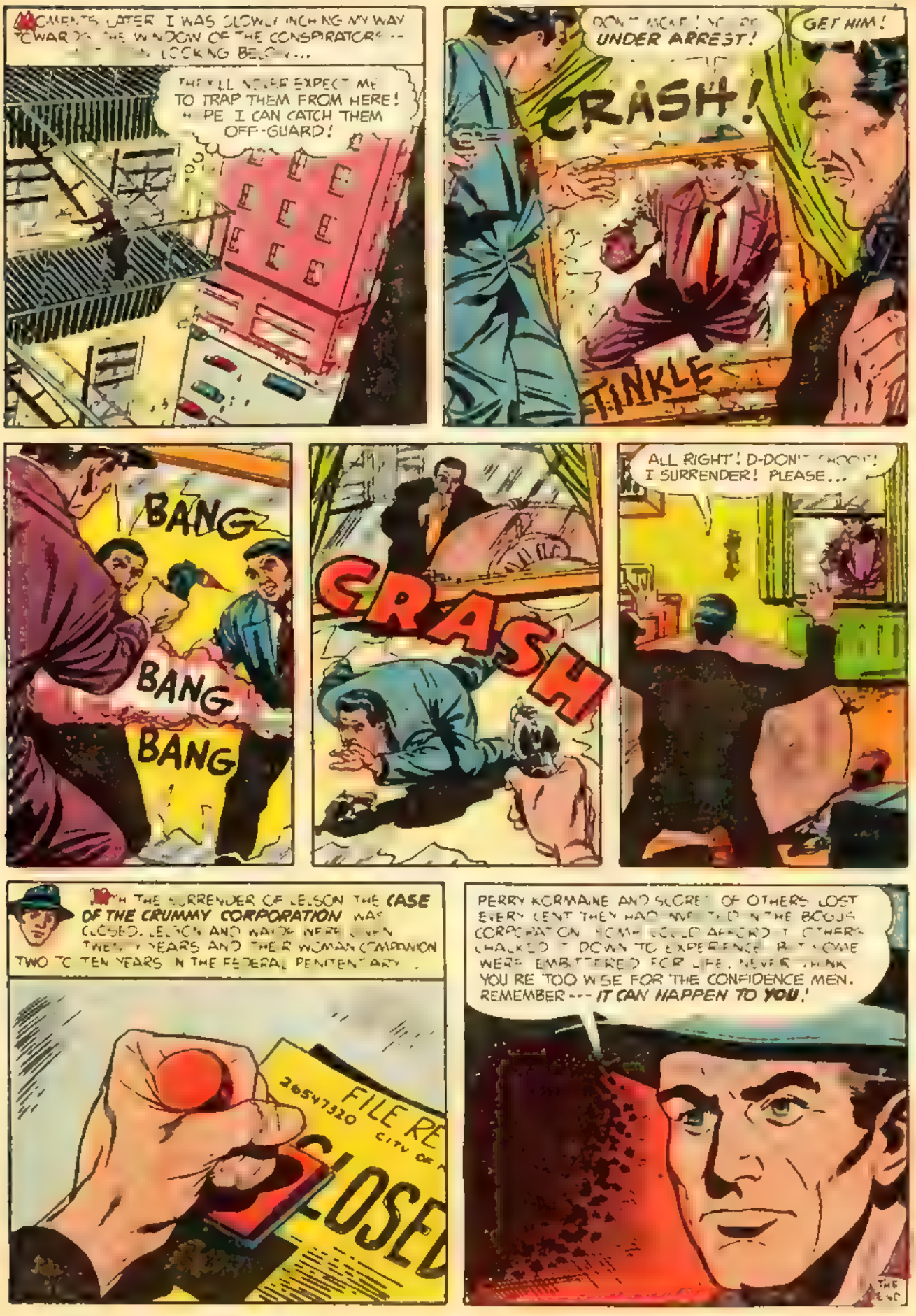
THEN--THE FREAK SH UNEXPECTED HAPPENED. IN A RARE CASE OF INSIGHT FOR A CONFIDENCE TRIO...

PEARSON! WATCH [illegible]

RACKET SQUAD

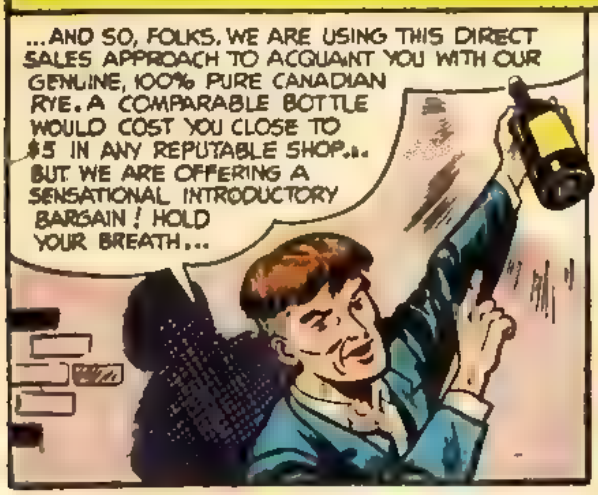
GET BACK HERE YA DIRTY STOOL-PIGEON!
WHA...T MPMMMMH
I KNEW IT WAS TOO PAT! I KNEW THIS GUY HAD THE BULLS WITH HIM
CUT IT OUT! THEY'LL BE ON OUR NECKS IN SECONDS!
SMACK
AND THEY WERE SO RIGHT! I REACHED THEIR HOTEL SUITE IN A FLASH, AND...
OPEN THIS DOOR -- OR WE'LL BREAK IT DOWN! WE'LL GIVE YOU FIVE SECONDS!
BAM
BAM
BAM
PEEEOW
DON'T TRY IT, COPPER! OR YOU'LL GET THIS! WE GOT PEARSON! REMEMBER THAT!
PEEEOW
BAM
BANG
PEARSON WON'T HAVE A CHANCE IF WE TRY TO FORCE OUR WAY IN THROUGH THE DOOR. STALL THEM WHILE I TRY AND GET IN THROUGH THE FIRE-
YEAH...BUT BE CAREFUL, DAN. THEY'RE DESPERATE.
ALL RIGHT! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP --AND YOU WON'T BE HURT!
COME IN AN GET US COPPERS!
WE GOT TO WORK FAST
BANG
BANG

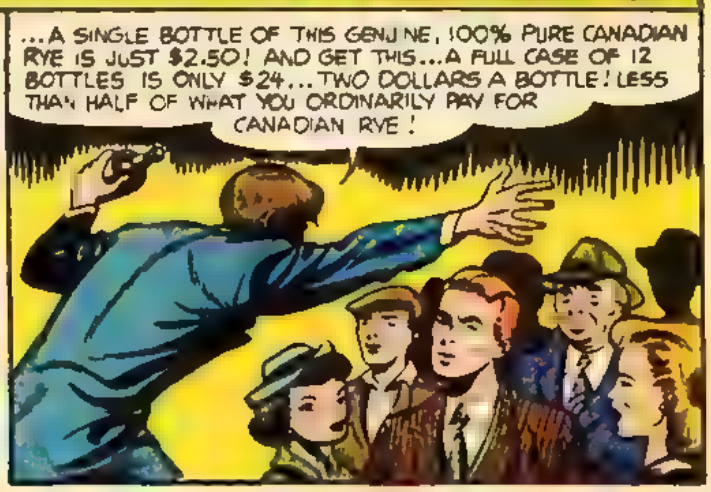
RACKET SQUAD


MOMENTS LATER I WAS SLOWLY INCHING MY WAY TOWARD THE WINDOW OF THE CONSPIRATORS' ROOM, LOOKING BELOW...
THEY'LL NEVER EXPECT ME TO TRAP THEM FROM HERE! I HOPE I CAN CATCH THEM OFF-GUARD!
DON'T MOVE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
GET HIM!
CRASH!
TINKLE
BANG
BANG
BANG
CRASH
ALL RIGHT! D-DON'T SHOOT! I SURRENDER! PLEASE...
WITH THE SURRENDER OF NELSON THE CASE OF THE CRUMMY CORPORATION WAS CLOSED. NELSON AND WADE WERE GIVEN TWENTY YEARS AND THEIR WOMAN COMPANION TWO TO TEN YEARS IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY.
FILE RE
26547320
CLOSED
PERRY KORMAINE AND SCORES OF OTHERS LOST EVERY CENT THEY HAD INVESTED IN THE BOGUS CORPORATION. SOME COULD AFFORD IT. OTHERS CHALKED IT DOWN TO EXPERIENCE. BUT SOME WERE EMBITTERED FOR LIFE. NEVER THINK YOU'RE TOO WISE FOR THE CONFIDENCE MEN. REMEMBER --- IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!
THE END

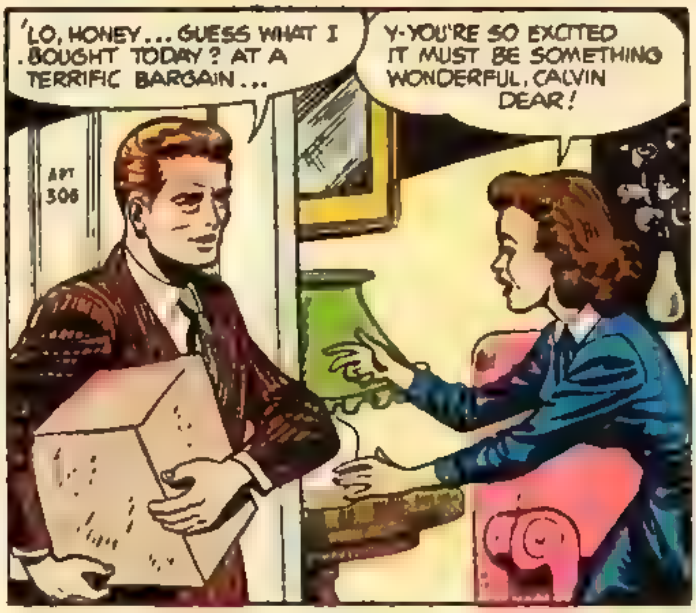
RACKET SQUAD

WHEN SUCKERS LINE UP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A FABULOUS BARGAIN, ALL TOO FREQUENTLY WHAT THEY ARE BUYING IS..... A CASE FOR THE POLICE!


...AND SO, FOLKS, WE ARE USING THIS DIRECT SALES APPROACH TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH OUR GENUINE, 100% PURE CANADIAN RYE. A COMPARABLE BOTTLE WOULD COST YOU CLOSE TO $5 IN ANY REPUTABLE SHOP... BUT WE ARE OFFERING A SENSATIONAL INTRODUCTORY BARGAIN! HOLD YOUR BREATH...


...A SINGLE BOTTLE OF THIS GENUINE, 100% PURE CANADIAN RYE IS JUST $2.50! AND GET THIS...A FULL CASE OF 12 BOTTLES IS ONLY $24...TWO DOLLARS A BOTTLE! LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT YOU ORDINARILY PAY FOR CANADIAN RYE!

PLEASE DON'T CROWD, FOLKS... AND SPECIFY WHETHER YOU WANT SINGLE BOTTLES OR THE SENSATIONAL CASE!
A FULL CASE HERE, PLEASE! I'LL TAKE IT WITH ME!


'LO, HONEY... GUESS WHAT I BOUGHT TODAY? AT A TERRIFIC BARGAIN...
Y-YOU'RE SO EXCITED IT MUST BE SOMETHING WONDERFUL, CALVIN DEAR!
APT 306

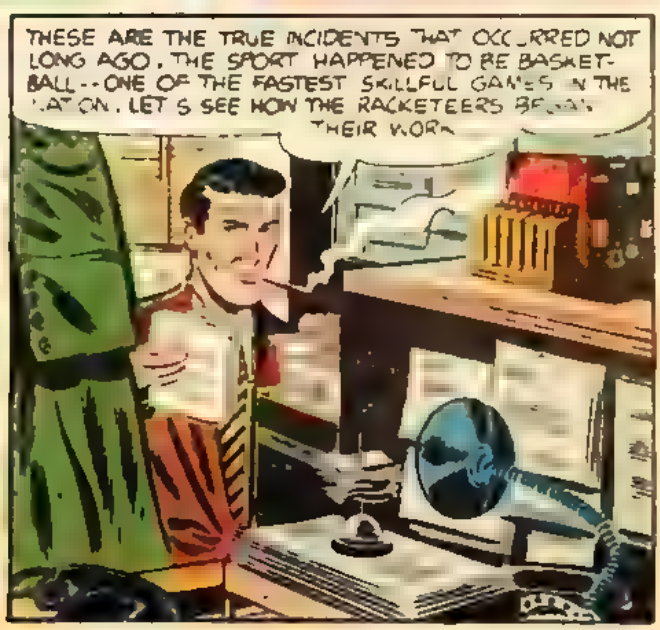
IMAGINE...A WHOLE CASE OF GENUINE 100% CANADIAN RYE... FOR JUST TWO DOLLARS A BOTTLE! NOT BAD, EH?
C-CAL...THAT ISN'T LIQUID IN THE BOTTLE! WHAT...WHAT IS IT?

W-WHY... IT'S SOME KIND OF GRAIN! AND ALL THE OTHER BOTTLES ARE FILLED WITH THE SAME STUFF! I CAN'T THINK OF WHAT...ULPPP! J-JUST WHAT THAT CROOK SAID IT WAS... GENUINE CANADIAN RYE MIXED WITH BUCKSHOT!
The End

RACKET SQUAD

RACKETS HEAD THE LIST FOR ALL CRIMES. BUT RACKETS IN THEMSELVES ARE MANY AND VARIABLE. CONFIDENCE MEN ARE JUST ONE OF THE HIERARCHY OF CROOKS. BUT ONE OF THE MOST VICIOUS GAMES IN DECEIT IS THE MANIPULATION OF THE SCORES IN SPORTS. HERE'S SUCH A TYPICAL CASE THAT CHEATED THE PUBLIC---
THE BASKETBALL SCANDALS!
YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE! STOP WHERE YOU ARE!
NUTS, COPPERS! YOU GOTTA HIT US FIRST!
BANG
BANG
BANG
JOE SHUSTER and RAY OSRIN

SPORTS IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT ONLY FOR ENTERTAINMENT BUT FOR BUSINESS, TOO! THE PUBLIC FLOCKS TO SUCH EVENTS IN DROVES. IT EXPECTS FAIR PLAY, EQUAL ODDS AND SKILL. BUT WHEN RACKETEERS TAKE OVER SPORTS BECOMES A CON GAME


THESE ARE THE TRUE INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED NOT LONG AGO. THE SPORT HAPPENED TO BE BASKETBALL--ONE OF THE FASTEST SKILLFUL GAMES IN THE NATION. LET'S SEE HOW THE RACKETEERS BEGAN THEIR WORK

RACKET SQUAD

THE SCORE WAS ALMOST EVEN--AND TIME WAS RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT FOR THE TWO COLLEGE TEAMS. THE GALLERIES WERE SCREAMING --AND THE PLAYERS WERE MANEUVERING ABOUT WITH LIGHTNING SKILL ..

CARLTON HAS TWO POINTS TO GO! HE'S NEAR-STALLS TURN! ADAMS TAKES A RAPID TWIST--

--IT'S THE GAME! ADAMS---WITH HIS BRILLIANT SET SHOT--SCORED AT THE LAST SECOND

THREE CHEERS FOR ADAMS BOY.

WAS TEAMWORK THAT DID IT!

TEAMWORK OR NOT, SCOTT ADAMS WAS THE STAR--AND AS USUAL, CELEBRATED HIS WIN WITH HIS FAMILY...

HERE'S TO MY BOY! LONG MAY HE PLAY--- AND LONG MAY HE WIN

HEAR HEAR. ENCORE! ALL RIGHT, SCOTT, SPEECH

WELL--ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I HOPE I'M GOOD ENOUGH TO BE PROFESSIONAL! I HOPE I MAKE A ***MILLION*** BUCKS! HA,HA...

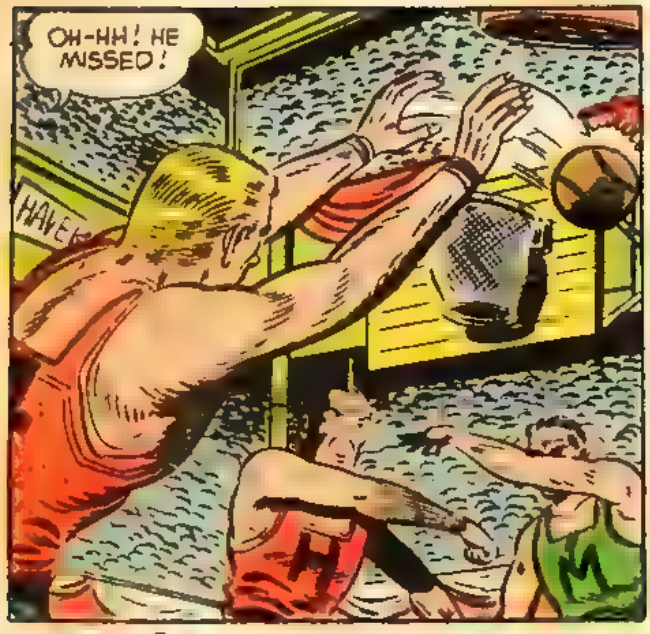
THE MARK OF ANY YOUNG COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL PLAYER WAS TO MAKE A MILLION DOLLARS IN HIS CHOSEN SPORT, OF COURSE. AND SCOTT ADAMS WAS NO EXCEPTION. HIS DREAMS AT NIGHT WERE FILLED WITH SUCCESS, FAME AND FORTUNE ..

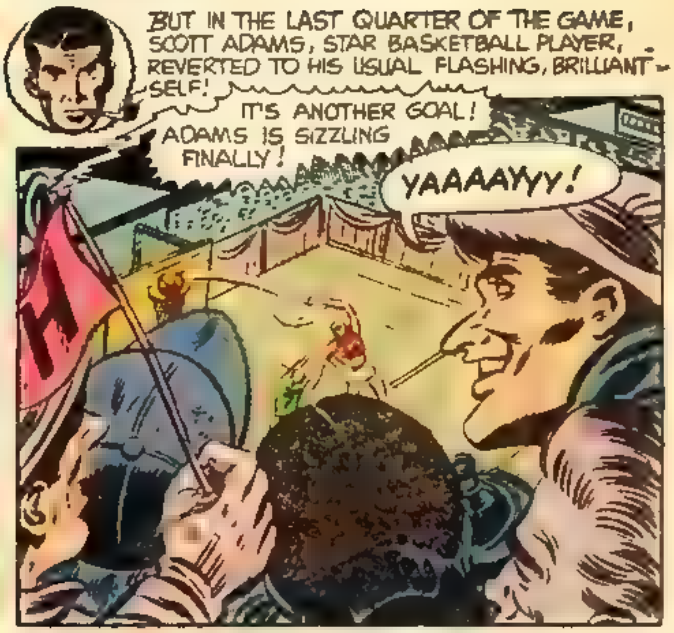
IN A FEW YEARS I MAY BE THE BEST PLAYER IN THE COUNTRY. WHO KNOWS--MAYBE I CAN BE A ***REAL*** STAR!

RACKET SQUAD

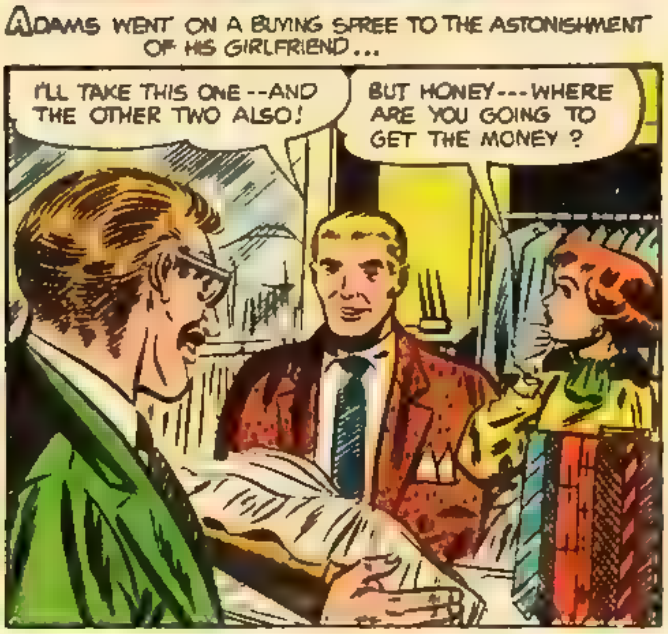
FATE HOWEVER HAD PLANS AGAIN OUT TO STAR IN A DIFFERENT KIND OF GAME ALTOGETHER — THE CON GAME! A FEW WEEKS LATER IN THE GYM LOCKER-ROOM...
LOOK--IT'S GREEN STUFF! IT'S GOOD! ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS TAKE IT EASY IN THE BEGINNING!
I DON'T LIKE BRIBES! WHO LET YOU IN HERE, ANYWAY?
I GOT HAS-BEEN-WEBB AND I SAID, KID, THINK IT OVER. THINK OVER YOUR FUTURE. IT CAN BE GOOD!
GET LOST
LOCAL RACKETEERS HAD FINALLY MOVED IN ON THE PRINCE OF SPORTS. SCOTT ADAMS, ANGRY THOUGH HE WAS OVER THE BRIBE, STILL COULDN'T HELP THINKING...
--FIVE HUNDRED! THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY FOR JUST ONE GAME
AND WHILE HE THOUGHT, HE PLAYED AS HE NEVER PLAYED BEFORE.
THAT'S IT BOY! SINK IT! GO! GO!
HAVER
GOAL! ADAMS HAS SCORED!
SCOTT ADAMS WRESTLED WITH HIS TEMPTATION FOR MANY A DAY. THEN ONE NIGHT JUST THREE WEEKS LATER...
NOW YOU'RE BEING SMART, KID! JUST TAKE IT EASY. THAT'S ALL I ASK!
ALL RIGHT-- JUST THIS ONCE!
THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME WAS WITH A TOUGH RIVAL TEAM. SCOTT ADAMS DIDN'T SEEM TO BE UP TO HIS USUAL STANDARD...
I CAN'T STALL MUCH LONGER. GUESS IT'S TIME TO MAKE A FAKE.

RACKET SQUAD




BUT IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE GAME, SCOTT ADAMS, STAR BASKETBALL PLAYER, REVERTED TO HIS USUAL FLASHING, BRILLIANT-SELF!
IT'S ANOTHER GOAL! ADAMS IS SIZZLING FINALLY!
YAAAAYYY!

ADAMS COULDN'T QUIT NOW. HE HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN A NET TIGHTER THAN ANY SPIDER'S WEB. GREED AND FOOLISH DAY-DREAMING HAD TRAPPED HIM. THE MONEY BEGAN COMING IN---AT FIRST...
TWO GRAND! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD FOR A COLLEGE KID! HA, HA...


ADAMS WENT ON A BUYING SPREE TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF HIS GIRLFRIEND...
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE--AND THE OTHER TWO ALSO!
BUT HONEY---WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE MONEY ?

DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR LITTLE HEAD, PEGGY! I JUST HIT A STROKE OF LUCK ON A GOOD INVESTMENT! YUP--IT'S A DURN GOOD INVESTMENT!
OH, SCOTT.

RACKET SQUAD

MEANWHILE, REPORTS FROM LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WERE PILING IN TO ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS--- REPORTS OF CROOKS AND GAMBLERS..

CHECK ON THESE, WILL YOU? DAN--HAUL THE GUYS ON THIS LIST IN FOR QUESTIONING! THERE'S TOO MANY OF 'EM IN TOWN ALL OF A SUDDEN!

MY OWN OFFICE HAS TRACED A FEW OF THEM TO THE SPORTS ARENAS. THEIR ALIBIS ARE TOO PAT. OUTWARDLY--THEY SEEM TO BE RESPECTING THE LAW. BUT I'LL CHECK IMMEDIATELY!

SCOTT ADAMS' SCHOOL WAS SET TO PLAY THE GAME OF THE SEASON IN THE BIG CITY GARDEN. IN A SMALL HOTEL AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

THIS IS THE BIG ONE, KID. YOU'RE GONNA THROW IT, KID---AND THROW IT GOOD! WE GOT TOO MUCH STAKED OUT ON IT FOR CHANCE STALLING!

BUT I CAN'T THROW THE GAME. I'VE NEVER THROWN A GAME!

THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME, KID--OR ELSE!

SMMACKK

SCOTT WAS TOLD TO PLAY WITHOUT LETTING ON TO THE OTHERS WHAT HE HAD TOLD US. ADAMS PLAYED FEROCIOUSLY---SINKING SHOT AFTER SHOT...

AND THERE'S ANOTHER! WOW! THIS SCOTT ADAMS IS SENSATIONAL!

ADAMS BEGAN TO SEE HOW WRONG HE WAS, AFTER THAT BLOW. HE ALSO HAD SOME SENSE POUNDED INTO HIS HEAD. TWO HOURS AFTERWARDS, HE WAS FACING ME...

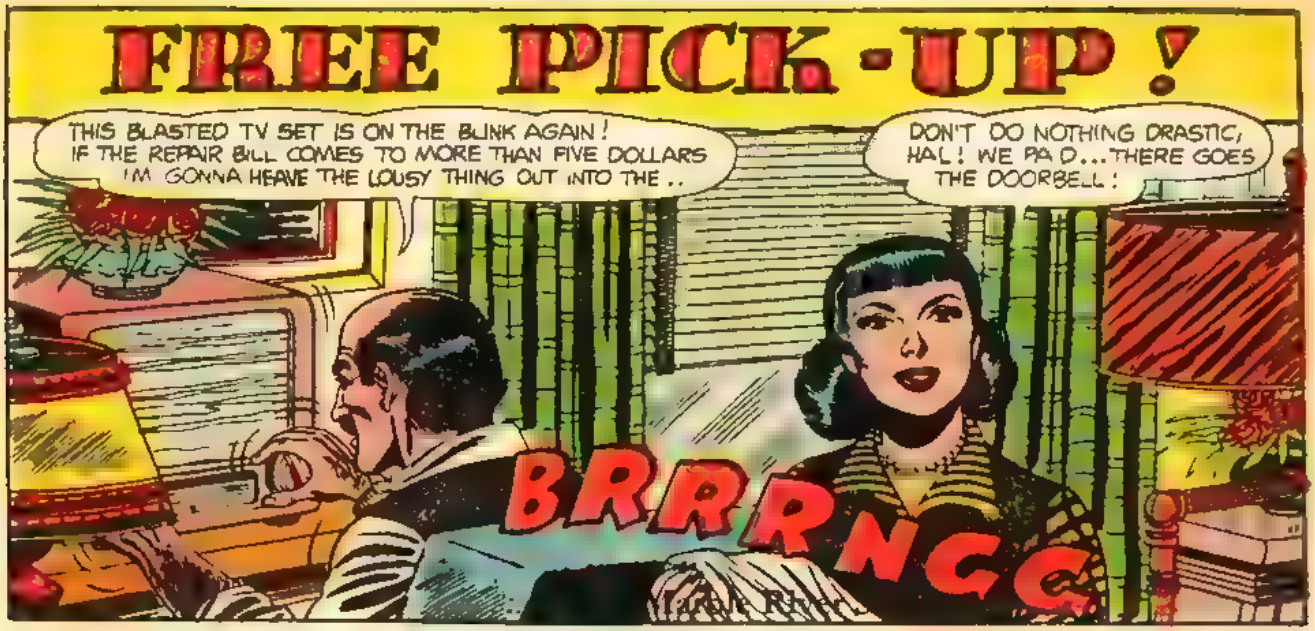
THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, SIR! I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY TO THINK I COULD DO IT!

YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL, SCOTT. BUT WE CAN NAB OUR MEN AT LAST!

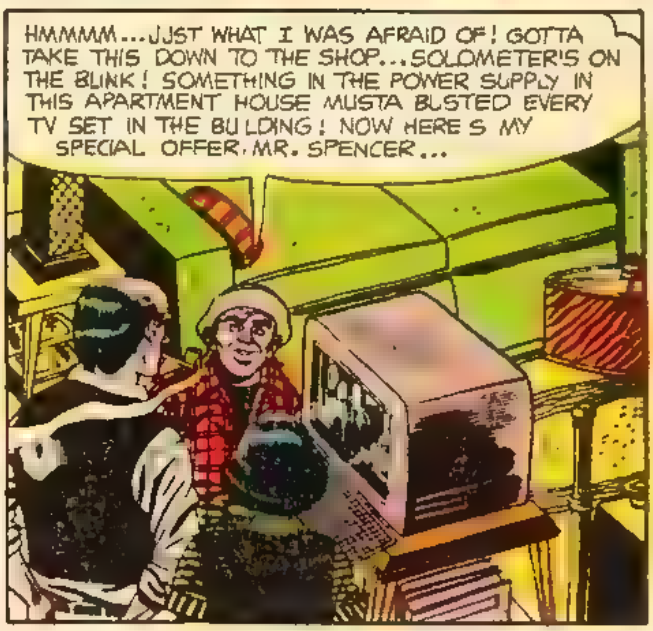
RACKET SQUAD

BUT THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WEREN'T VERY ENTHUSED. AND DIRECTLY AFTER THE GAME ...
GET THAT DIRTY DOUBLE-CROSSER!
WITH PLEASURE! HE COST US OVER FIFTY GRAND!
HOLD IT! DROP YOUR GUNS! YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
WHA--T?
EEEEEE!
TAKE COVER! LOOKS LIKE THEY WANT TO PLAY ROUGH!
BANG
BANG
BANG
ALL RIGHT! DROP 'EM NOW! DROP 'EM -- OR YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE!
Y-YEAH!
BANG
AND MOMENTS LATER...
THIS IS THE LAST BATCH BOYS. TAKE 'EM AWAY! WE NEED SOME CLEAN AIR AROUND HERE
THE RACKETEERS WERE SENT TO THE GRAND JURY FOR SENTENCING. SCOTT ADAMS WAS GIVEN A SUSPENDED SENTENCE, BUT BARRED FROM BASKETBALL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE! A NICELY GIGANTIC CONFIDENCE GAME HAD BEEN SMASHED ONLY BECAUSE THE GREED OF THE CONMEN WENT WILD.
THE END

FREE PICK-UP !

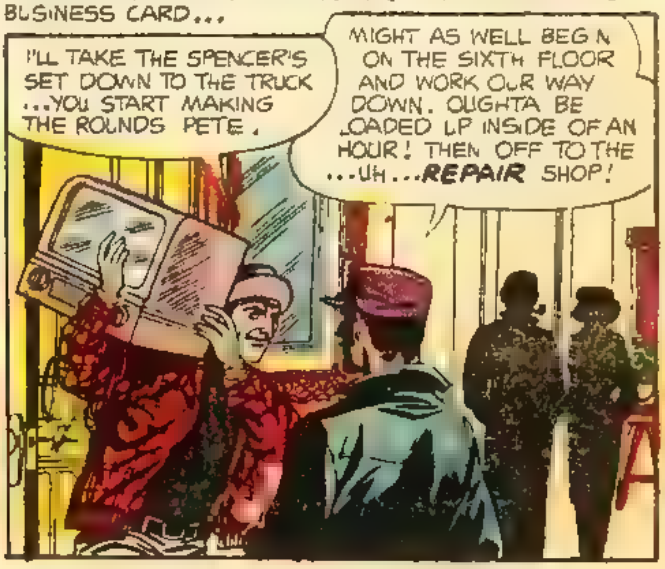

THIS BLASTED TV SET IS ON THE BLINK AGAIN ! IF THE REPAIR BILL COMES TO MORE THAN FIVE DOLLARS I'M GONNA HEAVE THE LOUSY THING OUT INTO THE ..
DON'T DO NOTHING DRASTIC, HAL ! WE PA D...THERE GOES THE DOORBELL !
BRRRNGG

MR. CRAMER...UP ON THE FIFTH FLOOR...TOLD US TO COME DOWN TO SEE YOU. SEEMS EVERY TV SET IN THE WHOLE BUILDING'S ON THE FRITZ... I GOT AN OFFER THAT'LL INTEREST YOU !
REPAIR MAN, EH ? CRAMER SENT YOU, HUH ? COME IN... COME IN !


HMMMM...JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF ! GOTTA TAKE THIS DOWN TO THE SHOP...SOLOMETER'S ON THE BLINK ! SOMETHING IN THE POWER SUPPLY IN THIS APARTMENT HOUSE MUSTA BUSTED EVERY TV SET IN THE BUILDING ! NOW HERE'S MY SPECIAL OFFER, MR. SPENCER...

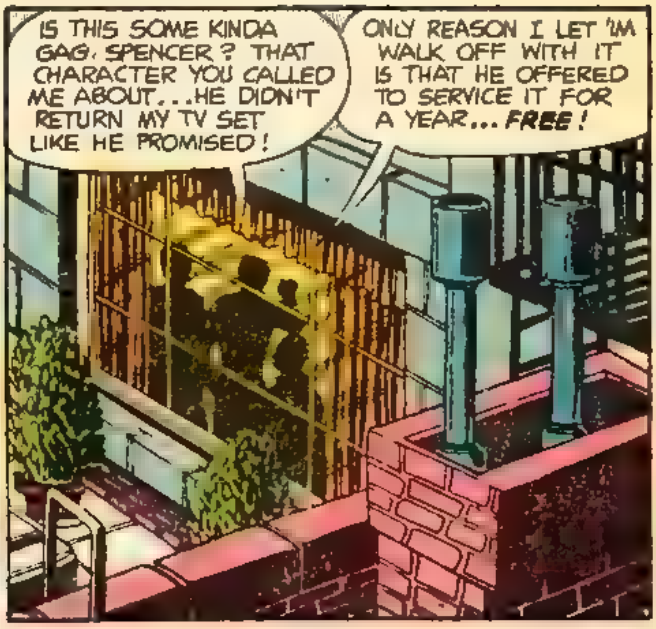
YOU GIMME A LIST OF FOLKS WHO OWN TV SETS IN THIS BUILDING...MEBBE PHONE 'EM AND SAY I'M COMING UP TO LOOK AT THEIR SETS...AND I'LL SERVICE THIS HERE MACHINE OF YOURS FOR A YEAR...FREE !
F-FREE ? I...IT'S A DEAL ! NOW LET'S SEE...

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AFTER MR. SPENCER HAS COMPILED THE LIST, AND RECEIVED THE REPAIRMAN'S BUSINESS CARD...


I'LL TAKE THE SPENCER'S SET DOWN TO THE TRUCK ...YOU START MAKING THE ROUNDS PETE.
MIGHT AS WELL BEGIN ON THE SIXTH FLOOR AND WORK OUR WAY DOWN. OUGHTA BE LOADED UP INSIDE OF AN HOUR ! THEN OFF TO THE ...UH...REPAIR SHOP !

RACKET SQUAD

TWO DAYS PASS, THEN...
WHAT THE DEVIL'S HAPPENED TO THAT TV REPAIR MAN YOU SENT TO SEE ME, SPENCER? HE TOOK MY SET AND PROMISED TO BRING IT BACK YESTERDAY...
YOU FLIPPED YOUR LID, CRAMER? YOU SENT 'IM DOWN TO SEE ME! HE'S GOT MY SET TOO, AND...

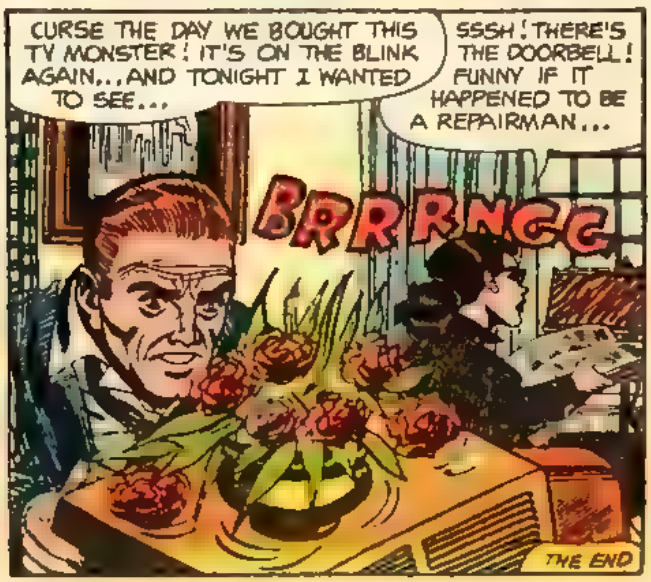

IS THIS SOME KINDA GAG, SPENCER? THAT CHARACTER YOU CALLED ME ABOUT...HE DIDN'T RETURN MY TV SET LIKE HE PROMISED!
ONLY REASON I LET 'IM WALK OFF WITH IT IS THAT HE OFFERED TO SERVICE IT FOR A YEAR... FREE!

F-FREE PICK-UP...DELIVERY... AND SERVICE? T-THAT CHARACTER ...HE MADE THE SAME OFFER TO ALL OF US! QUICK, SPENCER ...CALL HIS BUSINESS NUMBER!
I AM... I AM! THERE'S P-PROB'LY A SIMPLE EXPLANATION...

THAT SAME MOMENT, MILES AWAY...

LET'S START HACKING DOWN THESE TV ANTENNAS, PETE! IN A FEW MINUTES NOT A SET IN THE BUILDING'LL BE WORKING ...THEN WE GO INTO OUR ACT!
MIGHTY SWEET LITTLE DODGE WE GOT, PAL! NOT TOO MUCH WORK...AND THERE'S A PRETTY GOOD MARKET IN USED TV SETS!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN THE SAME BUILDING...


CURSE THE DAY WE BOUGHT THIS TV MONSTER! IT'S ON THE BLINK AGAIN...AND TONIGHT I WANTED TO SEE...
SSSH! THERE'S THE DOORBELL! FUNNY IF IT HAPPENED TO BE A REPAIRMAN...
BRRRNGG
THE END

Reader's Digest Reports Good News for all sufferers from PIMPLES

ACNE, TEEN-AGE PIMPLES, SURFACE SKIN BLEMISHES and IRRITATIONS!

AMAZING DOUBLE-ACTION SKIN TREATMENT THAT CONCEALS AS IT MEDICATES

Actual clinical tests conducted by leading doctors have proven that an amazing, new-type medication helps clear up acne blemishes while it covers and hides embarrassing pimples! In the many cases tested by the doctors, there were a mixture of men, women and children, White and Negro. Some with recent pimple eruptions and others with acne troubles of many years. The results were:

100% SATISFACTORY IN CLINICAL TESTS

*45% were COMPLETELY CLEARED!
38% were DECIDEDLY IMPROVED!
17% were IMPROVED!

NOW Same Type Medication Used in Clinical Tests Reported in Reader's Digest is Available To You

GUARANTEED TO HELP YOUR SKIN LOOK LOVELIER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE IN A FEW MINUTES OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

DON'T LET UGLY BLACKHEADS BLEMISH YOUR PERSONALITY

If you want help in getting rid of those ugly blackheads, you need SCOPE'S Amazing DOUBLE ACTION Skin Formula. See how fast and easy it aids in clearing the skin of those unsightly blackheads. It loosens those pore-clogging impurities and softens the hard deposits underneath and around the blackheads, making their removal simple and effective. Scope Medicated Cream, with its successfully tested ingredients, instantly and completely covers up all skin irritations, leaving your skin clearer, smoother, and more attractive looking.

SURE, QUICK RESULTS — WORKS LIKE MAGIC!

Thousands like yourself today enjoy the wonderful skin beauty that would normally be theirs—thanks to Scope. Scope Medicated Skin Formula is made in special tones to match your skin—and almost like magic hides those unsightly externally caused blemishes while the medication is acting. Just a few minutes a day may help you toward the complexion that's lovable to kiss and touch!

Leading SKIN SPECIALISTS RECOMMEND THIS DOUBLE TREATMENT

Physicians prescribe two ways to help control skin eruptions: First—clean the skin and clear the pores of clogging dirt. Second—inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin.

The clinically-proven ingredients in the scientifically-tested formula of Scope Products have been compounded to help overcome these external causes of pimples and irritations. Actually starves pimples because it helps remove the oils that skin specialists often associate with acne!

SKIN DOCTORS STATE THAT TO NEGLECT YOUR SKIN MAY PROLONG YOUR COMPLEXION TROUBLE AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO CLEAR UP!

DELAY MAY BE HARMFUL—
Send for Scope Medicated Skin treatment with its special "cover-up" action!
MAIL COUPON AT ONCE!

TEEN-AGERS and GROWN-UPS REGAIN NEW POPULARITY

People of all ages have discovered a new-found joy with a clearer lovelier looking skin! If you've been hoping to improve your complexion to increase your popularity with the opposite sex to climb to success in the business world—we recommend this amazing treatment. Just a few minutes each day can yield more gratifying results than you ever dreamed possible!

HIDES PIMPLES ON LIGHT, AVERAGE & DARK COMPLEXIONS!

To help people of all complexions quickly conceal their externally caused blemishes—Scope Medicated Skin Formulas come in special tones. No matter how many other treatments or old-fashioned preparations have disappointed you—here is a product that *guarantees to improve your appearance or double your money back!* Scope Medicated Skin Formula is GREASELESS, FAST-DRYING and STAINLESS! Make-up can easily be applied over it.

SURE, QUICK RESULTS — WORKS LIKE MAGIC!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin in just 10 days, return the unused portion and we will promptly send you *double the purchase price!* You have nothing to lose but worrying over your bad complexion. WE TAKE ALL THE RISK!

SEND NO MONEY

You fill out the coupon and by return mail we will immediately ship you the Scope Treatment in a plain package. Try Scope Treatment in a plain package. Try Scope yourself! If you are not entirely satisfied, return the unused portion for refund of DOUBLE your purchase price.

Mail FREE TRIAL Coupon TODAY!

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. C-C-3 ACT
1 Orchard St., New York 2, N. Y. NOW!

☐ Please send me on a 10-Day Trial the Scope Medicated Skin Treatment. I will pay postman $1.98 plus postage on delivery. If not entirely satisfied, I may return the unused portion for double my purchase price back

Check ☐ Light ☐ Medium ☐ Dark Complexion

Name_____

Address_____

City & Zone_____ State_____

☐ SAVE MONEY. *Enclose $2, now and we pay postage. Same double your money-back either way you order.*

APO, FPO, Canada and Foreign no COD's

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. C-C-3 1 Orchard St., New York 2, N. Y.

Use Your Spare Time Pleasantly To Make $50.00, $100.00 or More Showing These Exclusive Big-Value

Wallace Brown Christmas Cards

Why not do as thousands of other folks do? No need to wish for extra cash to buy the things you want. You can make money so easily just by showing the famous balanced assortments of beautiful Wallace Brown Christmas Cards to your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, fellow church and club members. They'll love this convenient way to order Christmas cards at home and they'll be delighted with the beauty, value and variety offered them. Among this big nationally famous line of over 50 money-makers are the two shown here . . . the sensational, big-value 21 card "Feature" Christmas Assortment and the gay and clever Merry Christmas Comics Assortment. They sell for only $1.00 each and you make up to 50c profit on each box!

Big Line of Over 50 Thrilling Money-Makers!

You need no experience . . . and you have so much to offer to bring you extra cash. There are exciting Christmas Assortments like the luxurious Golden Parchment, the delightful Christmas Velvet, exquisite Scripture-Text Religious Assortment, beloved Currier and Ives scenes . . . Gift Wrappings and Ribbons too! In addition, a complete line of exquisite Everyday cards for Birthdays, Get Well and other occasions. Also Children's Books, Imported Napkins and many novelty Gift items! They all spell Extra Money for you!

SEND NO MONEY to Get Actual Samples

See for yourself how much money you'll make. Mail Coupon TODAY for "Feature" 21 card Christmas Assortment on approval and FREE samples of low priced name-imprinted Personal Christmas Cards. We'll also include FREE, our beautiful, big, full color catalog of the entire Wallace Brown line to start you making extra money immediately.

—*Raise money!* Fill your treasury with cash by taking orders for Wallace Brown Cards and Gift Items from members and friends. Check coupon for details of fund-raising plan and actual sample assortment on approval.

WALLACE BROWN, INC. 225 FIFTH AVENUE, DEPT. S-123 NEW YORK 10, NEW YORK

Paste this coupon on a postcard or mail in envelope for actual samples. SEND NO MONEY

WALLACE BROWN, INC., Dept. S-123
225 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Please rush "Feature" 21-Card Christmas Assortment on approval, Free Samples of Special Value "Personals" and FREE full-color illustrated Catalog of entire Wallace Brown big-profit line.

Name_____

Address_____

City & Zone_____ State_____

( ) Check here for Organization Plan

Popular Priced PERSONALS *too!*

ACTUAL SAMPLES FREE!

Make even more money! Nothing else like them anywhere—four groups of outstanding Special Value *Name-Imprinted* Personal Christmas Cards . . . distinctive styling, low prices . . . for every purse and taste . . . Traditional, Religious, Cute, Formal, Currier and Ives . . . exclusive designs, luxury papers, including rich, deep-toned Suedes and genuine Parchment Cards. *They sell on sight!* WE DELIVER DIRECT TO YOUR CUSTOMERS AND WE PAY POSTAGE. Coupon brings you Actual Samples FREE.

Hi Pal!

Win $100 as I just did!

Come on, Buddy, Quit being A BAG-of-BONES Weakling like I was

IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY YOU Can do ALL I did!

I gained 25 Terrific LBS. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES all over!

I improved my HE-MAN LOOKS 1000%

I won NEW STRENGTH for money-making work! for WINNING at all SPORTS!

I won NEW POPULARITY Won NEW FRIENDS, BOYS & GIRLS NEW CHANCES for BUSINESS SUCCESS

How did I do ALL This? I mailed the Coupon and got These 5 PICTURE-PACKED HE-MAN COURSES Which YOU can NOW get FREE

BEFORE $1 PRICE GOES BACK

Millions Sold for $1

GET ALL 5 FREE

"I'm PROUD to be seen with Jim NOW! Everybody admires his build," says Nellie. "Jim can lift the front of a 2700 lb. car. He amazes his friends!"

You'll be A Real ATHLETE in ALL SPORTS Soon after YOU mail Coupon.

Jim is a WINNER in ALL SPORTS NOW. YOU will be, too, soon.

YOU CAN WIN a BIG 15" SILVER CUP as I just did! with YOUR NAME engraved on it!

JIM NORMAN

AFTER

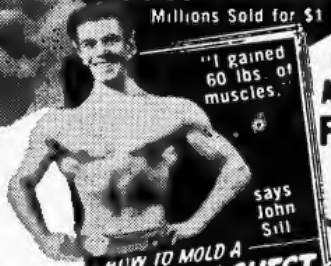
He Mailed Coupon

Below is Cleveland

BEFORE

He Mailed Coupon

He says, I gained 70 lbs. of mighty muscle



1 HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY CHEST By GEORGE F. JOWETT

2 HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY ARM By GEORGE F. JOWETT

3 HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY BACK By GEORGE F. JOWETT

4 HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY GRIP By GEORGE F. JOWETT

5 HOW TO MOLD MIGHTY LEGS By GEORGE F. JOWETT

COME ON, PAL, NOW YOU give me 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME like Jim did and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME

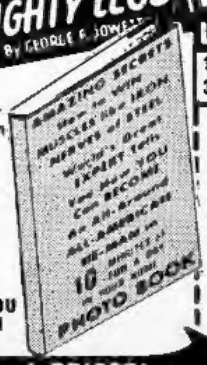
NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

"Congratulations, John! At last you mailed the coupon as EVERY MAN should. Soon You'll be as big and strong as I am," says Jim Norman to John Loukus

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be A1 WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

Mail the "ALL FREE" coupon get this "AMAZING SECRETS" Photo Book



You'll LOOK, FEEL, ACT, like A Real HE-MAN! Win Women and Men Friends. Win in Sports! Win Promotion, Praise, Popularity.

This BOOK will also show You HOW YOU CAN WIN $100.00 and a BIG 15" tall SILVER TROPHY (Your Name On It)

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

LAST CHANCE - ALL FREE COUPON

1. FIVE COURSES 2. MUSCLE METER 3. Photo Book of STRONG MEN

Dept. CH-49

Tell Me How To WIN $100, etc.

"Famous Courses Amateur in World for Building All-Around HE-MEN" O. F. Kelley Physical Director

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
308 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Dear George: Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses: 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2. How to Build a Mighty Arm. 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs. Have all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s).

NAME A Marble River Scan AGE

ADDRESS

CITY ZONE STATE

SAVES you YEARS and DOLLARS!!!

HELLO, BOB - HAVE YOU FOUND THAT UNDERSEAS TREASURE?

HECK NO! THERE'S NO TREASURE DOWN HERE!

GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH! OR PREMIUMS!

LOOK! LIVE PONY! Yessiree, a real, live Pony for your very own. Just send for BIG catalog for premium plan. MAIL COUPON TO START.

WE TRUST YOU!

ACT NOW! Mail coupon.

School Bags, Radios, Fishing Kits.

Boys and Girls Wrist Watches. Mail coupon.

Bluebird Clocks, Boosters, Blankets. Mail coupon!

BE FIRST

.22 Cal. Rifles, Archery Sets, Blankets, Skates, Dolls.

Telescopes, Wallets, Wagons. Mail coupon.

ACT NOW

WHADDAYA WASTIN' YOUR TIME DOWN THERE FOR? LOOK AT MY NEW TREASURES!

GOSH, SAM! WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

WHAT SAM TOLD THEM

- AND WITH EACH BOX OF THIS WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE, WE GIVE YOU A BEAUTIFUL ART PICTURE!

FINE! I'LL TAKE 2 BOXES, SAM -

BOY! ALL THOSE SWELL PREMIUMS AS EASY AS THAT!

HURRY! LET'S SEND IN OUR COUPONS RIGHT AWAY!

THAT'S RIGHT, KIDS! IT'S AS EASY AS FALLING OFF A LOG!

ACT FAST! Swim Masks, Flashlights, Cameras, Dresser Sets, 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles, Bibles.

LET'S GO!

Boys' and Girls' Bicycles, Alarm Clocks, Footballs, Blankets, Bibles, Watches. Get BIG catalog for premium plan. MAIL COUPON TO START.

Blankets, Bibles, Skates, Dolls, Mail coupon.

ACT NOW!

MAIL COUPON NOW!

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

YOU GET BIG CATALOG

Candid Cameras with carrying case, Telescopes, Watches (sent ppd.) SIMPLY GIVE pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 35c a box (with picture). Alarm Clocks, Aluminum Ware, Billfolds, Bibles, Blankets, Movie Machines, Pen & Pencil Sets, Record Players, Roller Skates, Telescopes.

WE TRUST YOU!

OUR 59TH YEAR!

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. C99, Tyrone, Pa. Date _____

Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ST. _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____

TOWN _____ ZONE NO. _____ STATE _____

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

OUR 59TH YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL